# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الرأي»

Volume 18 Number 5682 | AMMAN MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 1994, SAFAR 29, 1415 | Price: Jordan 150 Fils


### Yemen 'easing departure' of Jews to Israel

SANAA (AP) — Yemen has begun allowing members of its small Jewish community emigrate to Israel after years of resisting such travel on the grounds of Arab unity, an official said Sunday. A government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press that 19 Yemeni Jews left for Israel last week and that two more groups — one of 15 and the other of 12 — were to leave by Tuesday. They are travelling To Israel via Cairo or London, he said. The official said he expected these groups to be followed by larger numbers of the 5,000-strong society. He would not say why the government was relaxing its rules. Yemen's Jewish community, one of the oldest in the Middle East, existed in Yemen in pre-Islamic times and numbered as many as 50,000-60,000 half a century ago. Jewish organisations over recent years have put pressure on the Yemeni government to allow Jews to leave for Israel. But Yemen would only left a trickle go, and only to third countries, Yemenis could not return to their homeland if they had Israeli entry visas stamped in their passports.

### League regrets renewal of Libya sanctions

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Arab League said on Sunday it regretted the U.N. Security Council's decision on Friday to renew sanctions against Libya for failing to hand over two men accused of blowing up an American airliner in 1988. The league's secretary-general, Esmat Abdul Maguid, said the council had failed to take into account Libya's offer to let the men stand trial under Scottish law at the premises of the International Court of Justice in the Hague. Arab League foreign ministers approved the Hague proposal in March but Britain and the United States, both permanent members of the Security Council, said it was unacceptable. "Dr. Esmat Abdul Maguid ... expressed the Arab League's regret at the Security Council's decision," a league statement said. "He said that Libya had done the utmost possible to contain the Lockerbie crisis and that it had shown flexibility and great positiveness in dealing with it, with the aim of reaching a peaceful solution to it," it added. "He had hoped that the Security Council would take into account this serious and new proposal (of a trial in the Hague) to prevent an escalation of the situation," it said.

# Aqaba hosts Jordanian-Israeli summit today

## Meeting expected to herald new momentum in negotiations

From Nermeen Murad in Aqaba

A HISTORIC Jordanian-Israeli summit will be held here today, heralding in a new momentum in negotiations between the two states that some politicians expect will go a long way in speeding up agreements on the more complex negotiations over boundaries, water and security.

The meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which will be highlighted by a series of symbolic gestures, will underline Jordan's commitment to work towards a peace treaty with Israel if the Jewish state reciprocates the Kingdom's good will gestures by taking steps to end the outstanding problems over boundaries and water that still keep the two countries apart.

In the run-up to today's summit, which will be attended by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Jordan and Israel have exchanged "confidence-building measures" that officials here hope will set the foundation for the chain of bilateral, trilateral and multilateral negotiations that have taken a momentum of their own since Jordan hosted the Wadi Araba talks in mid-July.

"Putting the hostility behind us is necessary," a senior official who requested anonymity told the Jordan Times. "It means we will spend less time wrangling over gestures and more time discussing substance."

Despite the public sentiment that the process of normalising relations with Israel is moving too quickly, officials believe that Jordan has positioned itself to gain substantially by ending the state of belligerency between it and Israel.

Information Minister Jawad Al Anani appeared to be signalling this point in a short press conference this week when he said that the King's meeting with Mr. Rabin will focus on "implementing the provisions of the Washington Declaration, particularly with regards to issues related to regaining Jordanian sovereignty on its occupied land and water rights and the need to speed up negotiations on those two particular issues."

Israel's decision to give Jordan four million cubic metres during the four months of summer was seen by analysts as the first indication of Israel responding to Jordan's decision to end the state of war.

Many are expected to follow. And officials point to Tuesday's Dead Sea bilateral negotiations as the "testing ground" for Israel's willingness to become serious in meeting Jordanian rights.

During the peace talks,

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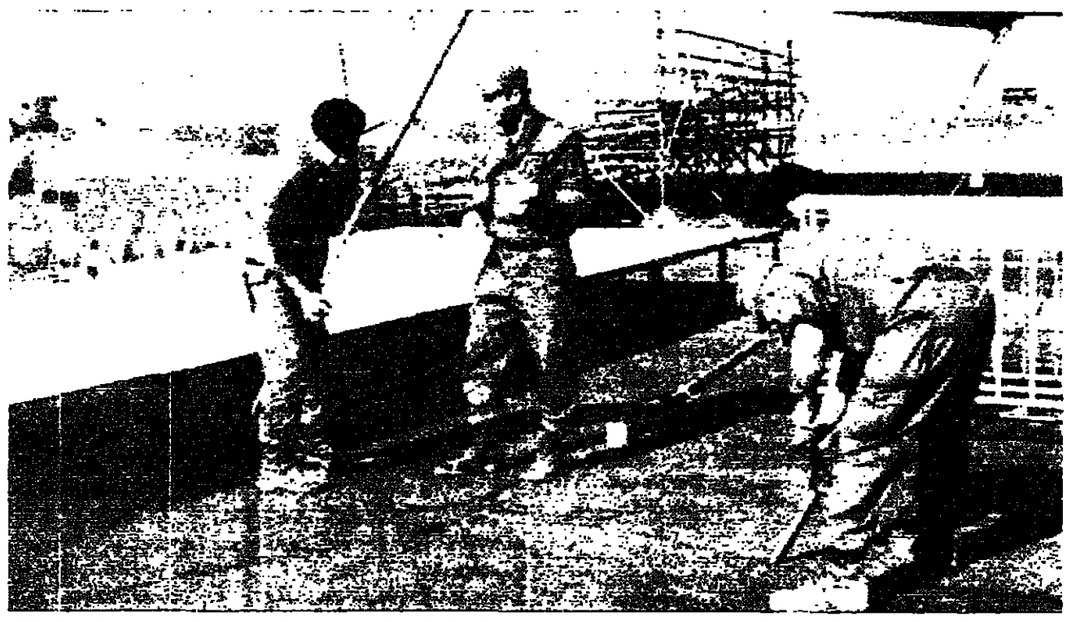

Work under way on Sunday at the inauguration site for the opening of the Eilat-Aqaba crossing, formally titled 'Araba Crossing,' about four kilometres north of Aqaba (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## 'Araba Crossing' to be launched today

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein today meets with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the port city of Aqaba amid intensified moves to implement provisions in the Washington Declaration signed by the two leaders in Washington last month ending a 46-year state of belligerency.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is scheduled to arrive in Jordan early Monday from Syria (see separate story), will also attend the Aqaba meeting.

One of the key events of the day is the opening of a border crossing between Aqaba and Eilat as part of the measures agreed in the Washington Declaration.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will represent King Hussein at the opening ceremony, which will be attended by Mr. Christopher and Mr. Rabin as well as Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The opening of direct telephone lines, another step stipulated in the declaration, was completed Sunday (see separate story). The first call was made by Israeli President Ezer Weizman to King Hussein, who arrived in Aqaba early Sunday ahead of Monday's summit.

The Eilat-Aqaba Crossing, formally titled "Araba Crossing," will be limited to third country nationals who will be issued visas at the site on a condition that they spend at least three days in Jordan, officials said. The same condition applies to those crossing into Israel from Jordan.

Mr. Chistopher will inaugurate the crossing by driving across and continuing down to Aqaba, officials said.

A group of 40 Spaniards will be the first tourists to use the crossing after the opening ceremony. Jordanian and Israeli checkpoints at the site include immigration and customs offices, moneychangers, restaurants, tourist offices and taxi stands.

The summit will follow the opening ceremony. The King will also host a lunch for the Israeli and American guests and take them on a short cruise of the Gulf of Aqaba. He will also attend a joint press conference with Mr. Rabin and Mr. Christopher.

An unconfirmed report said Sunday Mr. Rabin and Mr. Peres might visit the ancient city of Petra north of

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## Phone lines opened

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and Israel on Sunday opened direct telephone links and the first call was made by Israeli President Ezer Weizman to His Majesty King Hussein.

The lines went operational exactly at noon Sunday, 24 hours earlier than suggested in media reports.

"Good morning Your Majesty," Mr. Weizman said in Arabic as he opened the brief call broadcast live on Israel Radio.

The King answered in English: "I am very happy indeed to have this opportunity to speak to you. I hope that we will continue to get in touch and I look forward to seeing you sometime soon."

"You have an open invitation to visit Jerusalem, within two hours take-off time, anytime," said Mr. Weizman.

"Thank you very much indeed," said the King. "It's very kind of you. I hope it will happen sometime soon."

King Hussein called the phone links "a very good step forward" and said he hoped the public would take advantage of the change.

Mr. Weizman expressed hope that lines would soon be open between Israel and other Arab countries.

The two leaders signed off the call with mutual best wishes.

The Israeli president's call to the King was the first signal to many that direct

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## Aqaba residents nonplussed

From Nermeen Murad in Aqaba

RESIDENTS of this Red Sea port city are not xenophobic by nature. After all they are in daily contact with tourists who have at one point or another shopped in their downtown area or stayed at their hotels. But they are not ready for today's guest.

When Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin arrives here today, there will be no cheering crowds or banners welcoming the end of the state of war between Jordan and Israel.

But it is not because these residents do not crave peace.

"In our school textbooks we learnt year after year that Israel is our enemy," a shopkeeper in downtown Aqaba told the Jordan Times Sunday. "I cannot change how I feel overnight."

While giving a long historical and religious recount of why Arabs should never trust "them," the shopkeeper nevertheless said he would serve them as customers if they came by his shop.

"I would probably be all mixed up emotionally when I do that," he admitted. "I will be thinking in three ways — economically, religiously and nationally," said the 27-year-old.

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## Jordan moving with clear goals, has made major strides, Majali tells opposition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday told opposition parties that Jordan's moves in the Middle East peace process had made substantial progress towards regaining its territorial and water rights and resuming its central role in the region without jeopardising the rights of other Arab countries.

The prime minister also pointed out Jordan was successful in including the issue of the Palestinian refugees as an issue for negotiations.

Dr. Majali, in a meeting with the secretaries-general of eight political parties, also noted that all successive Jordanian governments had been calling for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East and for implementing United Nations Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

The meeting came after the eight parties sent a memorandum expressing their opposition to the peace process and criticising the government for its approach (see page 12).

The meeting was essentially a debate between the party leaders and the prime minister during which the politicians expressed their reservations over the peace process and emphasised the need to regain Arab sovereignty over Jerusalem.

Dr. Majali made a brief review of the developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and said Jordan, along with other Arab countries, took part in the international peace conference in Madrid in 1991, launching Arab-Israeli peace negotiations with the clear objective of restoring Arab rights and enabling the countries in the region to live in peace.

The prime minister noted that the process launched in Madrid had reached advanced positions, and just and comprehensive peace treaties, as and when reached, would end the conflict in the region.

On the issue of Jerusalem, Dr. Majali referred to the provision in the Washington Declaration in which Israel recognised the Kingdom's historic role vis-a-vis the Islamic holy shrines in the Holy City.

He said the final status of Jerusalem was an issue to be discussed by the Palestinians and Israel in line with their Sept. 13 declaration of principles signed in Washington.

"Jordan's religious sovereignty over the holy places is the recognition of a reality and an affirmation of Jordan's role in safeguarding the shrines," the prime minister said.

This Jordanian status was endorsed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, when Jordan severed its legal and administrative links with the West Bank in July 1988, Dr. Majali pointed out.

Dr. Majali told the party leaders that his government respects their viewpoints on all important issues.

But the government's stand "does not mean that one could relinquish his/her responsibilities towards his/her country and public interests," the prime minister said. "Nor could he/she refrain from respecting the Constitution and the laws

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## Christopher holds talks with Assad

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has taken a personal interest in trying to make peace between Syria and Israel, held fresh talks in Damascus on Sunday on his second Middle East shuttle in less than a month.

Mr. Christopher, expected to bring fresh thoughts from Israel on the differences blocking progress between the regional rivals, said before leaving Israel that the latest flare-up of violence in South Lebanon underlined the need for a settlement.

But his Syrian hosts, in a commentary broadcast on state-run Damascus Radio shortly before his arrival, said that only a clear statement from Israel that it would withdraw fully from the Golan Heights could unblock the negotiations.

"The only new thing which makes the step for peace possible is a clear statement by Israel committing itself to full withdrawal from the land (it occupied) to the pre-1967 boundaries," the radio said.

Mr. Christopher, who met Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Saturday, began talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad shortly after arriving from Israel on Sunday.

Syria and Lebanon are the only participants in nearly three years of peace talks yet to conclude even an interim peace deal with Israel. Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation both have.

Mr. Christopher, in telephone calls to Mr. Rabin and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa on Friday, expressed concern about a surge of violence in South Lebanon pitting guerrillas against Israel and its Lebanese militia allies.

"Frequently when attacks like this occur I've been asked or I've prompted myself to contact any of the

(Continued on page 7)

## Jordan reaffirms Jerusalem stand to PLO team

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tahi Al Hassan on Sunday met with a senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation and explained Jordan's position on Jerusalem, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra said Mr. Hassan explained to the delegation the details of Jordanian statements issued reaffirming the Kingdom's position vis-a-vis the continued Hashemite role in safeguarding and maintaining the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem.

The PLO delegation, which arrived here Sunday in line with a decision taken by the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho, includes Palestinian Minister of Information Yasser Abed Rabbo and senior PLO leader Faisal Husseini. The team's meeting with Mr. Hassan was attended by the acting chief of the Palestinian mission here, Omar Al Khatib.

Petra said Mr. Hassan stressed to the delegation "Amman's clear position over the issue of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem and the continued Hashemite Jordanian role in exercising religious jurisdiction over them."

An Amman-based PLO official told Reuters the Palestinian administration was "very concerned to contain any negative repercussions of the Jerusalem issue and the need to restore relations to a warm cordial level."

The PLO has been upset by a clause in a declaration signed last month by Jordan and Israel ending a 46-year-old state of war that recognises a special role for Jordan in Jerusalem's Muslim holy sites.

The Palestinians see East Jerusalem as capital of their future state.

Jordan has repeatedly affirmed that it supports the PLO's campaign to gain political sovereignty over East Jerusalem and this view does not clash with Jordanian role in Muslim shrines in the Holy City.

His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received more cables of support for his efforts to establish a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East and safeguard holy places in Jerusalem.

The King received a cable from Patriarch of Jerusalem Deodoros I expressing in his own name and on behalf of the Arab Greek Orthodox community appreciation to the King for his steps and efforts to lay down the foundations of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region and safeguard the holy places in Jerusalem.

Patriarch Deodoros said: "With great interest and strong belief in your courageous Hashemite leadership, we followed up Your Majesty's blessed efforts to shape a new future for this region, which the future generation will accept."

He expressed hope that the Washington Declaration "will be a step on the path of achieving peace and maintaining security and stability."

The King also received a cable from Secretary General of the Higher Arab Committee for Palestine Khalid Roubi, who expressed pride in the King's honourable stands.

"We in the committee always looked at Your Majesty as the symbol and the leader who will enable us Jordanians and Jordanians of Palestinian origin as one family to regain our usurped rights in accordance with international legitimacy," he said.

Al Ahd party members in Irbid Governorate also voiced support for the King's steps, which culminated in the Washington Declaration.

The party members support "your daring steps which have resulted in the materialisation of the great Arab dream which we have long dreamed of," a cable addressed to the King said.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Sunday visits an exhibition mounted as part of an annual festival in Fuheis, a town 20 kilometres west of Amman (Petra photo)

## Sense of belonging is guiding Jordan's march — Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — The sense of belonging is the fundamental element that has always helped Jordan and Jordanians to shoulder their responsibilities, face up to hard decisions and over difficulties, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Sunday.

Addressing a festival in Fuheis, a town 20 kilometres west of Amman, the Crown Prince said Jordan and Jordanians continue to believe in the sense of belonging to the nation as one of the firm principles.

The Crown Prince said the democracy in Jordan and the National Charter of the Kingdom are based on one cause — national unity — and emphasised the Kingdom's efforts throughout the years and still ongoing towards protecting the Jordanian identity.

"What links us in this united family is our sense of belonging to Jordan," said the Crown Prince, adding that Jordanians, equipped with planning, dedication, education and work, could absorb modernisation without sacrificing "our original values."

"Whoever says modernisation affects these values is underestimating the sense of belonging to the legacy of historic originality and is challenging our ability to adapt to a time when we are on the threshold of the 21st century," the Crown Prince said.

The Crown Prince said Jordan had sacrificed and was continuing to sacrifice in its endeavours to safeguard its national identity and to keep its head high and unbowed except to Almighty God.

On Jerusalem, the Crown Prince said the holy city was a "uniting symbol for Muslims and Christians."

Father Hanna Kildani delivered an address at the festival expressing support for steps taken by His Majesty King Hussein to achieve peace in the region.

"We support what King Hussein finds fit. We cannot be loving Palestine, Jordan, and Arab countries more than you do," said Father Kildani.

"Your grandfather Al Hussein Ben Ali is buried next to the Dome of the Rock Mosque; the late King Abdullah had sacrificed his blood for its sake," he said.

"Therefore, the issue is not only Palestinian and Arab, it is also Hashemite to which King Hussein has devoted his life. And the King is not seeking a role in Jerusalem and Palestine, but this role is imposed on him by the Great Revolt at the Arab level, and by his ancestry at the Islamic level and by the Omari pact at the Christian level," Father Kildani said.

Other addresses were delivered to voice support for the King's efforts for peace.

Prince Hassan, who was accompanied at the opening ceremony by His Royal Highness Prince Rashed Ben Al Hassan and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, toured the festival's various activities, including an agriculture exhibition which was introduced to the festival this year upon directives by the Crown Prince.

Prince Hassan also visited the Orthodox Church Gallery, an exhibition of national documents and books and an exhibition of paintings.

# Arafat to honour aid criteria —U.S.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat has promised to meet conditions holding up international aid to Palestinian self-rule areas during talks in which Egypt played a key role, a senior U.S. official said.

Mr. Arafat "was quite focused and he was quite responsive in... what he said to us," during a meeting in Alexandria, Egypt, on Saturday that included Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the official said.

But the official, who asked not to be identified, said Washington will watch to see if Mr. Arafat really follows through.

Mr. Christopher, who later left Egypt for Israel, is in the Middle East to keep Israel-Syria negotiations on track and boost the Israel-Jordan declaration signed last month.

Donors have pledged $2.4 billion to help Palestinians develop and assert control over Gaza and Jericho, now accorded self-rule under an Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace agreement. But Mr. Arafat, struggling to govern these desperately needy areas, has complained that the aid is not flowing fast enough.

The United States, other donors and the World Bank are reluctant to release huge sums without adequate controls.

U.S. officials say, however, a U.S. project to build new houses has broken ground and funds to clean up Gaza and employ 12,000 people have been released.

Palestinians, under Israeli domination for so long, are unused to self-rule had to build their governing authority from the bottom up. Donors are sympathetic but insist aid be subject to controls to prove how it is spent.

Mr. Christopher warned two weeks ago that Mr. Arafat must provide better documentation for the aid, sign an agreement with the Overseas Private Investment Council (OPIC) to underwrite U.S. firms doing business in the Palestinian areas and finish design work on some projects.

On Saturday, "there were some very clear commitments on the OPIC agreement, on project design, on Arafat himself having these meetings with the (World) Bank people to finalise the precise problems we identified," the official said.

Mr. Arafat said "I will do this," the official added.

According to the Americans, the strategy for Saturday's meeting in Alexdria was worked out in advance and Mr. Mubarak played a key role. First, Mr. Arafat met Mr. Mubarak and then the two men met with Mr. Christopher.

The U.S. side specified measures the Palestinians must take to get development projects moving but made clear Washington was also asking donors to expedite their aid.

"... One of the things that we have seen is the chairman (Arafat) seems to be more responsive in terms of making commitments in precise areas when he is in the presencw of President Mubarak," said the senior U.S. official.

Mr. Arafat was ostracised by many Arab countries when he backed Iraq during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis over Kuwait. Mr. Mubarak has done business with Mr. Arafat ion this critical peacemaking period when other Arab states — like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait — kept the PLO leader at arms' length.

"Therre is a relationship (with Mubarak) that is obviously a very important one to him," the official said, adding: "Also when Arafat's got the two of us there he can't be saying one thing to one side and something else to the other."

NEW CROSSING: A Jordanian officer, a member of the United Nations Armistice Commission between Jordan and Israel, meets with Israeli officers at the "Araba Crossing," north of Aqaba on Sunday ahead of the opening of the crossing on Monday (see page one) (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

# Kuwait tightens drive against graft, corruption

LONDON (R) — Kuwait plans to send a high-powered legal team to London this week to prepare the ground for asset freezes as part of a crackdown on corruption and financial irregularities in the Gulf Arab state.

Sources close to the Kuwaiti government said Lawyer General Dharar Asousi, a deputy to Kuwait's attorney general, will lead a team of four hoping to use British courts to recover money from the 1982 collapse of Kuwait's unofficial stock exchange.

The cause is the latest in a series of Kuwaiti legal actions to spill over into the British courts.

Late last month Britain's commercial court granted "mareva" orders, which freeze bank accounts pending trial, against three defendants alleged to have been involved in embezzling $100 million from the state-owned Kuwait Oil Tanker Company.

Former officials of the London-based Kuwait Investment Office (KIO) have also had assets frozen, pending a $500 million civil suit over the $5 million collapse of Grupo Torras, the KIO's Spanish investment arm.

The latest moves also address Kuwaiti fears over the flight of capital. But some high-ranking Kuwaitis believe any legal action abroad does little but wash the country's dirty linen in public.

"It's a logical step. Marevas are a pre-emptive strike. They are a political weapon, sending a signal there is no refuge in stashing money abroad," a source close to the government said.

"But you have to prove a powerful case, that's perhaps been not aired. Even if Kuwait wins, it loses," the source added.

The attorney general's office in Kuwait could not be contacted for comment. The Kuwaiti embassy in London and the KIO both said they could not comment officially on the case.

Kuwait is still reeling from the squandering of oil revenues earmarked for future generations in the Torras affair.

Amid allegations of fraud and secret political payments, it is already claiming $1.0 billion damages in trials in Spain.

The KIO is also under investigation by British tax authorities over allegations it benefitted from £600 million of illegal tax breaks from the purchase of a stake in oil giant British Petroleum Co. PLC six years ago.

Official sources say the British government would like to resolve this latest embarrassing affair quickly and quietly.

But by fighting a second front over Torras in London, the KIO opens itself up to legal "discovery" — having to reveal all sorts of potentially sensitive documents to the defence.

That means the tax authorities will not settle until the Spanish affair is over and may follow new leads thrown up on the way, sources say.

Still, the 1982 collapse of Kuwait's informal bourse, built on post-dated cheques, dwards them all.

Known as the "$20 billion bad debt problem," the collapse of the speculative secondary market has haunted the Kuwaiti government, the country's leading banks and high-rolling Kuwaitis since 1982, long before the economic blight caused by Iraq's August 1990 invasion.

Much of the money has or will be repaid under a scheme to repay 45 per cent of debts — which runs out next month — or have them rescheduled over the next 12 years.

Some 3,500 debtors, though, did not sign up by the scheme's March 31 deadline and sources say eight high-profile investors — six Kuwaitis and two non-Kuwaitis — will be initially targetted by the Asousi team. They will also focus on assets held at the London-based United Bank of Kuwait, the sources say.

A commercial bank quarterly economic review said on Sunday Kuwaiti business sentiment appears more upbeat and the emirate has put Gulf war disruption behind it.

If oil prices maintain recent firmness the state of the emirate's finance will improve but the pursuit of measures to control the state's budget deficit remain important, the review by the National Bank of Kuwait said.

"The Kuwaiti economy has now put behind it the major problems and dislocations of the immediate post-liberation period, and recent indicators reflect a more upbeat tone in business confidence and activity after a prolonged phase of relative stagnation," the review said in its business outlook.

"If the trend of improvement in oil prices observed in the second quarter of 1994 is maintained during the remaining part of the year, and recent expectations generally favour this scenario, oil revenues and hence the budgetary situation will not be as bad as was projected at the start of the year."

# Israel seeks Vatican clarification on Waldheim

VIENNA (AP) — Former Austrian President Kurt Waldheim is once again at the centre of controversy, this time over his receipt of an award of papal knighthood.

Israel asked the Vatican on Tuesday to clarify the distinguished award of knighthood in the 147-year-old Order of Pius IX, made in a July 6 ceremony at the Vienna offices of the papal nuncio.

The timing of the award was curious, coming just months after the Vatican and Israel recognised each other in December and first exchanged ambassadors in March.

The award has barely raised a public eyebrow in Dr. Waldheim's Roman Catholic homeland.

But it has angered Jews. The disparate reaction recalls the bitter 1986 controversy over Dr. Waldheim's alleged concealment of his service in the German army in World War II.

Austrians, shying away from their own Nazi past, accepted that Dr. Waldheim served in the Wehrmacht, as did tens of thousands of Austrians. Many seemed prepared to forgive him for keeping his wartime past a secret, although there were also calls for him to stand down.

Many Jews in the United States and Israel, however, considered Dr. Waldheim, now 75, a virtual war criminal for his service in the Balkans near the site of Nazi atrocities.

The July award of the papal knighthood was attended by leading Austrian figures and several foreign diplomats. It was barely reported in Austrian media, and passed without public comment.

At the ceremony, Papal Nuncio Archbishop Donato Squicciarini said the Pope decided the knighthood award Feb. 22. However, such decisions usually are not published for months after the fact.

In his fulsome oration, Mr. Squicciarini gave a glowing account of Dr. Waldheim's tenure as U.N. secretary-general from 1972-1982, and Austrian president from 1986-1992, according to a copy of the remarks obtained this week by the Associated Press.

He said it was a "high honour" for him to present the award to Dr. Waldheim, and made no mention of the international and domestic furor caused by Dr. Waldheim's term as president, or of his diplomatic isolation.

Dr. Waldheim was declared persona non grata in the United States and a 1987 visit to the Vatican was one of only a few he made abroad as president.

Kurt Waldheim

Mr. Squicciarini instead focused on Austria's role as a fighter for human rights on "the fateful dividing line between West and East," and praised Dr. Waldheim's leadership during Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

"You took an initiative with great courage, with statesmanlike strength of decision and generous readiness to help," Mr. Squicciarini said.

He referred also to Dr. Waldheim's visit to Iraqi president Saddam Hussein in late August 1990 to secure the release of more than 90 Austrians trapped in Baghdad. Dr. Waldheim was the first Western leader to meet President Saddam after the Kuwait invasion.

As head of the United Nations, Mr. Squicciarini said, Dr. Waldheim performed "very great services, especially in your efforts as a peacemaker and in crisis management during countless outbreaks of armed confrontation."

Finally, the papal nuncio lauded Dr. Waldheim's personal life, noting Dr. Waldheim's 50th anniversary with his wife Elisabeth will be celebrated this year.

Mr. Squicciarini will hold a mass on Aug. 9 to mark the occasion, the Austria press agency said.

"As a man and as a Christian, you made a marriage with the intention, to live in love, faithfulness and unity drawn from the strength of God," Mr. Squicciarini stressed.

His words appeared a swipe by the Roman Catholic establishment at Dr. Waldheim's successor Thomas Klestil, who disappointed many leading lights of his conservative Catholic People's Party when his marriage broke up earlier this year amid reports of an affair with a much younger female aide.

**JOB OPPORTUNITY**

**PHYSIOTHERAPIST**

A physiotherapist is required to work for a community-based rehabilitation programme under the supervision of Al-Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped and in cooperation with the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf and other organisations in Jordan.

Therapists who have some experience in working with disabled children in particular and who are ready to work in direct contact with the families and community are welcome to apply in writing to the following address:

**The Holy Land Institute for the Deaf**

**P.O.Box 15, Salt.**

**Enclose CV and certificates.**

**N.B.:** The job requires a good deal of travelling within the Kingdom.

Female applicants are most welcome.

Applications are accepted until October 24.

# Palestinians fear for future as Hebron observers head out

HEBRON, occupied West Bank (AFP) — Palestinians in the massacre town of Hebron are voicing fears for their future after the international observer force heads out on Monday, although they say the unit never had enough power to keep the Israelis in check.

Amid mixed feelings over the end of the force's mission, Palestinian critics complain that Israel stripped the white-coated observers of any authority over troops and Jewish settlers in the Israeli-occupied West Bank town.

The Temporary International Presence in Hebron (TIPH) made up of 116 unarmed Norwegians, Italians and Danes announced Friday its mission would end on Aug. 8, completing a three-month mandate.

"TIPH believes it has nearly fulfilled its mission in Hebron, only a few points are still unsolved," said spokesman Bjarno Sorensen.

He referred to efforts to reopen the Ibrahimi Mosque, where a Jewish settler slaughtered more than 30 worshippers on Feb. 25, and the town's vegetable market near a Jewish settlers' district.

"TIPH has... been able to lower the level of tension in the city," the spokesman said. "Life in Hebron is on the move back to normal."

At Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) insistence, the 166 observers were deployed in the town on May 8. The complex has since remained closed.

Marwan Abu Munshar, a Palestinian engineer, was apprehensive about the future.

"We expect things to blow up after they leave. The army is behaving itself now because the TIPH is here," said Mr. Abu Mushar, who allowed the force to use his roof-top as an observation post.

Hebron Mayor Mustafa Natshe conceded that the TIPH had achieved some success in curbing violence against Palestinians. "The army now tries not to use live bullets, and when they do, they shoot at legs," he said.

But the observers had "only reduced, not lifted the suffering," he said. "We would have liked them to have more authority, to stop closures," such as at the vegetable market, and curfews.

"We consider the observers our guests, here to enjoy the mountain air," said another resident, Izzdein Al Sharbaty, adding that his wife and son had been stoned by settlers.

"The TIPH came to see me, they took down notes. But what can they do? All they carry is a pen and paper."

The force itself came under some heavy-handed treatment. Unwanted by sceptical Palestinians, it was the target of stone-throwers and was also exposed to the army's tear-gas when trapped in the cross-fire.

"We had to go around to schools to explain to the children that the white uniforms meant: 'no stones'," Mr. Sorensen said.

The observers reported unrest and the army's actions to a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee. They had no policing role and opted not to carry arms.

The observers patrolled the streets in small white cars, video-taping incidents while keeping in touch with one another and the Israeli army.

The Palestinians have said they wanted the TIPH to stay on but failed to approach Israel for a joint request, an Israeli foreign ministry spokeswoman said.

"They (the TIPH) have fulfilled their task in bringing back calm after the February killings," said Talli Samash.

Their last Friday here was a typical one for the TIPH, with youths hurling stones at soldiers who fired back with tear-gas. The youngsters fled into a hospital and life returned to normal.

Aharon Domb, a spokesman for Hebron's 400 settlers who opposed the unprecedented deployment of an international force as a threat to Israel's hold over the West Bank, was conciliatory.

"At least they saw that settlers are not at the root of the violence," said the spokesman.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**JORDAN TELEVISION**

*Tel: 773111-19*

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 ..... Pif Et Hercule
17:10 ..... Beaumanoir
17:30 .... Musiques Sans Frontieres
18:30 ..... News in French
19:00 ..... News in Hebrew
19:15 The Weekly Sport Magazine
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... My Big Brother Jake
21:10 ..... A Galactic Odyssey
22:00 ..... News in English
22:20 ..... Matrix
23:10 ..... No Job For A Lady

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:24 ..... Fajr
05:50 ..... (Sunrise) Duha
12:41 ..... Dhuhr
16:22 ..... 'Asr
19:33 ..... Maghreb
21:00 ..... 'Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 652526.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824328.
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675691.
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel. 811295

**WEATHER**

*Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.*

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

| | |
|---|---|
| Amman | 19 / 32 |
| Aqaba | 23 / 39 |
| Deserts | 17 /36 |
| Jordan Valley | 22 / 38 |

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 17 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**NIGHT DUTY**

AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour ..... 750197
Dr. Farouq Nour ..... 786680
Dr. Khaldoun Kloub ..... 816715
Dr. Rizq Abu Zinah ..... 894295
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 778336
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy ..... 623672
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy ..... 637660
Nairouzh pharmacy ..... 623672
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Akram Momani ..... 248794
Alquds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hussein Al Haj ..... 984344
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

**EMERGENCIES**

Control Centre ..... Food 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue ..... 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade ..... 617101
Blood Bank ..... 775121
Highway Police ..... 843402
Traffic Police ..... 896390
Public Security Department ..... 630321
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800
Price Complaints ..... 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121
Overseas Calls ..... 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television ..... 773111
Radio Jordan ..... 774111
Water Authority ..... 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company ..... 636381
RJ Flight Information .... 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

**HOSPITALS**

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity .... 642362
Malkas, J. Amman ..... 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 669131
University Hospital ..... 845845
Al-Mussher Hospital ..... 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital .... 602240/50
Amal Hospital ..... 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983523
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ..... (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER**

**QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

*This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.*

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

09:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)
09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:15 ..... Riyadh (RJ)
11:00 ..... Beirut (RJ)
11:00 ..... New Delhi (RJ)
17:50 ..... Cairo (RJ)
18:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:30 ..... Rhodes (RJ)
19:00 ..... Bangkok (RJ)
19:20 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
19:30 ..... Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
00:45 ..... Moscow (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

11:00 ..... Khartoum (SD)
13:30 .... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)
15:00 ..... Sanaa (IY)
17:00 ..... Rome (AZ)
20:20 ..... Cairo (MS)
21:30 ..... Dubai (EM)
21:45 ..... Beirut (add) (ME)
01:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

**DEPARTURES**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)**

06:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)
12:00 ..... Sanaa (RJ)
12:20 ... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
13:00 ..... Rhodes (RJ)
13:15 ..... London (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ)
13:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)
14:35 ..... Moscow (RJ)
20:45 ..... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:00 ..... Dhahran (RJ)
21:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)
22:30 .... Al 'Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
22:30 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

**Other Flights (Terminal 2)**

06:00 ..... Istanbul (TK)
09:15 ..... Beirut (ME)
12:00 ..... Khartoum (SD)
14:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
16:00 ..... Sanaa (IY)
21:15 ..... Cairo (MS)
22:30 ..... Dubai (EM)
02:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

**HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN**

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

**MARKET PRICES**

*Upper/lower price in fils per kg.*

| | |
|---|---|
| Apple | 600/ 400 |
| Banana | 680 |
| Banana (Mukattaar) | 680 |
| Cabbage | 120 / 70 |
| Carrot | 260/180 |
| Cauliflower | 100/ 80 |
| Cucumbers (large) | 140 / 80 |
| Cucumbers (small) | 280 / 200 |
| Eggplant | 180/ 100 |
| Fig | 450/ 300 |
| Garlic | 850/600 |
| Grapes | 320 / 200 |
| Lemon | 450 / 300 |
| Marrow (large) | 150 / 100 |
| Marrow (small) | 340 / 250 |
| Mulukhiah | 150/ 100 |
| Okra | 1000/ 700 |
| Orange | 500/ 300 |
| Onion (dry) | 260 / 200 |
| Plumb | 700 / 500 |
| Sweet Melon | 150/ 100 |
| Pepper (hot) | 240 / 180 |
| Pepper (sweet) | 240 / 180 |
| Potato | 420/ 280 |
| Peaches | 800/ 500 |
| Tomato | 110/ 60 |
| String beans | 650/ 550 |

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Labour minister visits N. Shuneh

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — Labour Minister Khaled Ghzawi Sunday visited the North Shuneh district where he met with District Governor Nael Azab and other officials for talks which centred on the foreign workforce in the Jordan Valley. The minister decided to set up a committee to be chaired by the district governor. The committee was entrusted with conducting studies on the foreign workforce in the district and was authorised to deport foreign workers who do not hold valid work permits.

### Mafraq prepares for Prophet's anniversary

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Department in Mafraq governorate has finalised preparations to celebrate Prophet Mohammad's birthday, Department Director Mohammad Kreishan said Sunday. Mr. Kreishan said the governorate's major celebration of the occasion will be held Monday Aug. 22, at Al Mafraq Grand Mosque after noon prayers.

### Sales, marketing skills training ends

AMMAN (Petra) — A training programme on "basic sales and marketing skills" concluded at the Industrial Development Bank's Jordan Management Institute. Several officials representing industrial, commercial and services establishments participated in the week-long programme which aimed to develop the participant's marketing skills and to familiarise them with means of defining the needs of consumers in the Jordanian market. Several experienced specialists gave lectures at the programme on market research and planning, promotion, marketing skills and consumer behaviour. In another development, a new course on financial analysis was opened at the institute Sunday. Several government officials are participating in the week-long course aiming to acquaint the participants with the importance of using financial analysis in the decision making process.

### New post offices open in Karak Governorate

KARAK (Petra) — The Karak Governorate Communications Department has opened seven post offices in various parts of the governorate during the first half of this year, according to Karak Communications Director Mohammad Majali. Mr. Majali said these offices are serving citizens in the areas of Uneiza, Ghor Al Safi, Al Mazare', Al Taybeh, Al Nu'aimeh, That Ras, Afraneh, Al Shihabiya and Al Yarout.

### Authorities destroy biscuits, chocolates

ZARQA (Petra) — The Zarqa Governorate Health Department Sunday destroyed large quantities of biscuits and chocolates which were found unfit for human consumption. Department Director Talal Khreisat said the quantities destroyed consisted of 119 boxes of biscuits and 74 boxes of chocolate and candy. He said owners of these quantities were fined and referred to the concerned authorities.

### Laser conference to open at JUST

AMMAN (Petra) — The Second International Laser Conference will open Saturday at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST). The three-day conference, which is organised by the university's Physics Department, will discuss 50 working papers dealing with the uses of laser beams in medical, engineering and other scientific fields. Some 157 specialists from Iraq, Algeria, Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Italy, the U.S. in addition to Jordan will participate in the conference.

# Science week goes into 4th day

## *Papers include novel mathematical formula*

By Rima Corbawi
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — Included among the working papers on Sunday's Jordan Science Week sessions, "the impressive nature of the paper on the novel mathematical formula innovated by First Lieutenant Yahia Hashem should be acknowledged," said Brigadier General Abdul Wahab Kharabsheh, procurement director of the Armed Forces.

Lt. Hashem created a new method to solve complex algebraic equations in a simpler, less time-consuming and more accurate way. His solution formula was published in the SIAM journal in the U.S.

Opening the second session Sunday, Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh said that since the 1960s, Jordan has been proceeding towards improving human and other resources. This, he said, is manifested in directing financial support to research and development (R&D) and education.

This year, the minister said, double the amounts of money has been allocated for science and technology in comparison with previous years, especially towards R&D departments in the productive sectors such as agriculture and industry rather than the social sectors.

According to Safwan Toukan, Ministry of Planning secretary general, "the social sectors have so far enjoyed more financial support than the productive sectors."

Dr. Toukan drew a comparison between Jordan and other countries on the percentages allotted from their gross national product (GNP) for development purposes.

Dr. Gammoh added that in Japan, 3.5% of its GNP is channelled towards R&D.

Director of the Development Sector at the General Secretariate of the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) Talal Akasheh gave an audio-visual presentation on the short and long term objectives of the National Document on Science and Technology.

Later, two experts discussed the development of drug manufacturing in Jordan and the pharmaceutical companies' R&D departments as well as individual and regular communication and the advantages of using the worldwide network of communications (Internet) in educational and industrial institutions.

Finally, Brig. Gen. Kharabsheh, who is the director of the organising committee of the science week, outlined the importance of a solid infrastructure in the interaction and integration of all institutions in Jordan. He also stressed on the significance of the time factor in any strategic plans, saying "almost every mathematical equation includes a time factor."

Sunday's events, held at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), included three sessions.

The first involved three working papers on the recycling of solid waste materials, the incorporation of new technologies in constitution methods and a novel formula for solving complex algebraic equations.

The second revolved around further discussions on the strategic policies of the National Document of Science and Technology, especially concerning the financing of research on applying science and bio-technology.

The last session comprised four working papers on future cooling gas substitutes in the Jordanian Armed Forces, the design of a test-instrument to study any sedimented materials in the central-heating station of Mu'tah University, unification and standardisation of the different building styles and revitalising rechargeable batteries.

# 400 handicapped persons to get jobs in government — ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The government has selected 400 out of the 500 handicapped persons who have applied for jobs to fill vacancies at ministries and government departments, according to Secretary General of the Ministry of Social Development Suleiman Rousan.

Mr. Rousan said this measure complies with a Cabinet decision to implement Disabled Persons Law No. 12 of 1993, which stipulates that two per cent of government posts are allocated for qualified disabled persons whose handicaps do not prevent them from carrying out their duties.

Concerning handicapped applicants who did not qualify, Mr. Rousan said the Ministry of Social Development has decided to create a department to rehabilitate and employ the handicapped and has asked its departments around the Kingdom to accept their job applications and to help them find employment in the private sector.

Thus far, he said, the ministry has officially appointed 204 of the 400 handicapped persons who were selected.

Mr. Rousan urged all private sector companies, factories and firms to adhere to the law by making certain that two per cent of their workforce be occupied by handicapped individuals.

A young woman receives secretarial training at Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped (File photo)

This year the ministry has established three centres for the handicapped in Jerash, Ajloun and Balqa governorates which provide services to about 500 individuals, he said.

Mr. Rousan added that the ministry has received double the number of applications it can handle from families of handicapped persons requesting services.

He said the ministry is about to prepare its 1995 budget which will focus on opening more centres to absorb larger numbers of handicapped persons in areas that do not have such centres.

Mr. Rousan said the cost of hosting any person with severe handicaps costs the state more than JD 300 a month.

The ministry, he added, is also working on expanding the capacity of rehabilitation centres.

It currently operates three vocational rehabilitation centres for the handicapped, and is planning to open two new centres next year.

# Boy dies 2 days after beating

By Rana Husseini
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — An eight-year-old boy who was listed in critical condition at Jordan University Hospital on Friday after being beaten by his brother, died Saturday, according to police reports.

Yazid Khalid was beaten by his 15-year-old brother Shadi during an argument, the report said.

According to the report, the father of the two boys had divorced their mother recently and married another woman.

The day of the beating incident, Mr. Khalid and his new wife went to visit family, and left the children at home. When they returned they found Yazid in poor health and took him to the hospital.

In his testimony to police, Shadi said that he did not intend to kill his brother, and that he was only trying to "teach him a lesson."

The youth is in police custody pending further investigation. Police would not say where the incident took place, but only that the family resided in Amman.

### Shepherd found dead

Meanwhile, Querah police Sunday were investigating the mysterious death of a 52-year-old shepherd whose decomposing body was found in a deserted area, in the southern part of Jordan, by another shepherd, police reports said.

The reports said that A.S.S. was grazing her sheep in a pasture and saw a person lying on the ground. When she approached the person she discovered he was dead.

The report said that the body was positively identified by the victim's brothes. The deceased known as Musa (52) had been dead for more than a week , said the doctor who examined the body. The body was transferred to Al Bashir Hospital for an autopsy.

As of Sunday evening, it was still not determined what caused Mr. Musa's death. Police said they are investigating the incident.

# Jubilee School team represents Jordan at Asian conference on gifted students

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jubilee School of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) participated in the Third Asian Conference on Caring for Gifted and Excelling Students held in Seoul last week. Participating delegations included those from Southeast Asia, India, China, the U.S., Canada, Australia, Israel, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa, the European Union (EU) and the International Council for Gifted Students.

Jubilee School Director Fathi Jarwan, who represented the school at the conference, Sunday said the meeting included workshops, lectures and presentations of working papers by the participants on educational programmes for gifted students.

Dr. Jarwan said the conference also discussed several educational studies on detecting gifted students and the best means to develop their talents and skills.

He said the editorial staff of the International Council for Gifted Students had published two working papers to acquaint participants with the Jubilee School, the only Arab educational institution at the conference.

Dr. Jarwan said he presented a working paper on the school's programmes, and highlighted the role of non-governmental organisations in providing care for gifted students.

He said he reviewed the achievements of the NHF and its distinguished role in the educational field.

He pointed out that the Jubilee School, considered the first of its kind in the Arab World, seeks to develop well-studied educational programmes to enable it to meet the special needs of gifted students.

The Jubilee School director lauded His Majesty King Hussein's continued support for educational development projects in Jordan and commended Her Majesty Queen Noor's interest in gifted students' programmes in the Kingdom, stressing that the Queen plays a major role in supporting the march of the school and bringing its experiment to success.

# *Not in the 'classical' manner, but ever so enchanting*

By Angham Tamimi
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — When presenting classical pieces of music in the "classical" manner, audiences of the Jerash Festival may not warmly welcome the show; that is why, perhaps, the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of Noor Al Hussein Foundation had a surprise in store last week.

At the Artemis Theatre, Iraqi conductor Mohammad Othman Sidiq led the NMC orchestra Thursday night with six pieces including: "The Marriage of Figaro Overture," Beethoven's Symphony No. 5, Mozart's Symphony No. 40, Agnes Bashir's "In Jordan," Antoni Dvorak's "Slavonic Dance No. 3," and Aram Khachaturian's "Sabre Dance" The audience called for encores of the last two pieces.

Friday night the NMC Concert Band was joined by the Beirut Symphony Band in a performance conducted by NMC Director Kifah Fakhouri. With Her Majesty Queen Noor in attendance, the Artemis Theatre nearly burst with about 1,300 people, most of whom were educated people, music specialists and students of music.

Looking for a kind of enchantment to attract the largest audience possible, "we thought of a great and special performance to suit the Jerash audience," Kifah Fakhouri told the Jordan Times. "The purposes of this joint performance was to introduce the wind instruments to the public who have a wrong idea about them, second, to present the audience with Jordanian musical productions, third, it was a chance to make musical reciprocal visits in order to enrich our knowledge, and fourth, to offer the public a positive idea regarding these kinds of activities, which may lead to increasing the number of musically educated people."

The pieces performed included: "The Marriage of Figaro Overture," "Peter and the Wolf" "The Phantom of the Opera Medley," "Aladdin," "All for Love" (Bryan Adams), "Hero" (Mariah Carey), "The River of Dreams" (Billy Joel), and "Die Pedro Sit Down," "Suite from the Planets," highlights from "The Little Mermaid," various Arabic themes, highlights from "Beauty and the Beast," and Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture."

Instead of presenting some music orchestrally, and to keep the audience from feeling bored, a video tape of the related Disney animations ran alongside the musical pieces.

The NMC performance was a mixture of Arabic and foreign pieces suited to adults and children. "It is important to cooperate with other Arab orchestras in order to get to know each other," said Mr. Fakhouri. "We felt exiled from some parts of the Arab World. For instance, we had no idea about the Iraqi Symphony Orchestra until some of the teachers working there came to Jordan after the Gulf war. By then we discovered how advanced they were in this field," added Mr. Fakhouri.

Munir Bashir, director general of the Arab Academy of Music, attended the show and expressed his astonishment to Mr. Fakhouri. Mr. Bashir told the Jordan Times that the NMC show is a new trend in the world of Arab festivals, and that joint performances should be continued and enlarged in order to reflect a better idea about the musical cultures all over the world.

"Regardless of the crowds, we were able to enjoy the performance. I congratulate Noor Al Hussein Foundation for introducing such performances that give us a completely different picture from what we are accustomed to," added Mr. Bashir.

Although the NMC show was good enough to attract a large audience, "the press was absent," complained Mr. Fakhouri. "No journal wrote about the two-NMC nights. In addition, Jordan TV did not broadcast the tape sent by the NMC to the station. They (JTV) decided it was fare enough to broadcast one dull piece, "The Planets," which we inserted into the show, and which gives no idea about our two shows."

# WHAT'S GOING ON

### FUHEIS FIFTH FESTIVAL

- ☆ Concert by Iraqi vocalists Ala' Sa'd, Ali Al 'Isawi, and Ahmad Ni'meh at the main theatre, off the Greek Orthodox Convent at 21:00.
- ☆ Seminar in Arabic entitled "The History of the City Salt" with the participation of Mr. Wishah Wishah, Dr. George Tarif, Mr. Awad Gammoh, Mr. Mohammad Tarawneh, and Ms. Ranwa Al Khatib at the festival site at 18:30.
- ☆ Exhibition of Jordanian scripts, documents, and books.
- ☆ Abstract art paintings exhibition by Salwa Ammaren, Darya Zetzifa, Norma Hattar, and Ilias Tu'meh.
- ☆ Exhibition on the city of Salt.
- ☆ Caricature drawings exhibition by Imad Hajjaj, Kifah Mahmoud, and Khaldoun Gharaibeh.
- ☆ Exhibition of handicrafts.
- ☆ Comprehensive agricultural exhibition (held for the first time with the participation of the private and public sectors).

### PLAY

- ☆ Play in Arabic entitled "The Man Who Ate The Goose" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.

### CONCERT AND MELODRAMA

- ☆ Concert by "The Family International Group" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 20:00.
- ☆ Melodrama in Arabic for children entitled "The Children's Garden" at Haya Cultural Centre at 17:00.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Exhibition of water paints by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakhit at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street (Tel. 687598).
- ☆ Ceramic exhibition by artist Haidar Ra'ouf at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition entitled "Environmental Technologies: A Travelling Information Centre" at the American Center.
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Utheina (Tel. 826932).

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LOTUS

# Bosnian Serbs vow to fight alone

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has pledged to fight on alone after a week in which he has been cut off by his mentor, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, and his forces have come under NATO air attack.

The United Nations reported no let-up in fighting in central Bosnia, an area where the Serbs have lost some ground to the Muslim-led Bosnian army in the past few days.

In Sarajevo, sniping continued and French U.N. anti-sniper teams on the government side of the inner-city front line fired back at Serb marksmen with machineguns and cannon mounted on their armoured personnel carriers.

"We have deployed a lot of troops to deter these snipers," said U.N. spokesman Major Rob Annink. "As of yesterday, patrols have been sent out on foot and have located a number of places where snipers are believed to be hidden."

Mr. Karadzic's defiant statement Saturday was delivered shortly after Bosnian Serb force averted the threat of further NATO air strikes by returning five heavy weapons including a tank they had seized from a U.N. compound in Sarajevo.

The commander of U.N. troops in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, called in an air attack Friday to punish the Serbs for taking the weapons and had threatened further NATO raids if the arms were not given back by Saturday

The Western alliance's planes attacked the Serbs for the first time since April and one day after Mr. Karadzic's backer to the east, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, severed economic and political relations with the Bosnian Serbs.

The international community has threatened to punish Serbia with tougher sanctions because of the Bosnian Serbs' continued refusal to accept the latest peace plan, drawn up by the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia.

With the Yugoslav economy on its knees and winter looming, Mr. Milosevic is anxious to avoid any tightening of the two-year-old embargo.

As hundreds of loaded trucks were turned back at the Serbian-Bosnian border, Mr. Karadzic acknowledged that he must do without Belgrade's lifeline of arms, fuel and other war supplies.

"It seems to us that we have to grow up to be separate from our mother and to be older an adult and we have to fight. Now we are totally, totally alone, only God is with us," Mr. Karadzic told Reuters.

He was referring to Serbia, which had armed and financed the Bosnian Serbs in their 28-month war against Bosnia's Muslim-led government after the former Yugoslav Republic's independence.

Mr. Karadzic ordered local authorities to mobilise a compulsory workforce to include all those of working age in order to compensate for the blockade imposed by rump Yugoslavia — Serbia and Montenegro.

"Sanctions are unacceptable and unbelievable. We do understand that Yugoslavia cannot support us any longer and cannot follows us in our fight for freedom and our own state," Mr. Karadzic said.

"But we cannot understand the measures that are even tougher and stronger than those the international community has applied against Serbia and Montenegro," he said.

"All our enemies are encouraged now. Muslims and Croats have launched new offensives against us and NATO found it easier to shoot at us."

Bosnian Serbs said Muslim forces were on the offensive around Olovo, Vares, Doboj, Majevica, Ozren, Brcko and Zvornik.

Maj. Annink said the Bosnian Muslim-led army, with the help of Bosnian Croat forces, had gained 30 per cent of the Serb-held Brgule area south of Vares in central Bosnia.

Momcilo Krajisnik, the Bosnian Serb parliament's speaker, said the assembly was expected to meet again in the next two days and could declare a state of war and a full mobilisation.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has called on the Bosnian Serb people to defy their authorities as they move toward a general mobilisation in the war, Sarajevo Radio said.

The Bosnian collective presidency Saturday called on Serbs in Serb-held areas of the republic to choose peace.

"All of you who did not dirty your hands with the blood of the innocent, defy those who push you to further war and suffering," the presidency said in a statement.

TOY FOR CHILDREN: U.S. popstar Michael Jackson (2ndR) and his bride Lisa-Marie Presley-Jackson pose with Hungarian midget Misu (centre) at the bed of an unidentified child at the Helm Pal Hospital for Children where they distributed toys. Jackson is in Budapest for the shooting of the video clip that will feature him as a freedom fighter who liberates East Europe of Soviet troops (AFP photo)

# Khmer Rouge threaten to kill kidnapped foreigners

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodia's outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrilla faction has threatened to kill Westerners whose countries provide military support to the Phnom Penh government, rebel radio said Sunday.

"If the United States, Australia and France are waging war to kill Cambodians, then Americans, Australians and French will also be killed or wounded," Khmer Rouge Radio said in a report monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

"This means that if you play with fire, your head will get burnt."

The U.S. and France have provided "non-lethal" military assistance to the resource-strapped Cambodian army, while Australia has offered to pay for a naval maintenance facility and national communications network for the armed forces.

A Western diplomatic source told Reuters it was unlikely the threat of violence would affect negotiations to free three Western tourists being held by the insurgents in southern Kampot province.

"I don't think that (radio report) changes the situation," he said.

Negotiations are underway for the release of three men taken hostage during a July 26 train ambush — Mark Slater, 28, from Corby in Northamptonshire, Britain Jean-Michel Braquet, 28, from Nice, France and David Wilson, 29, from Melbourne, Australia.

A letter to government authorities allegedly written by the Khmer Rouge commander holding the three men, dated July 31 and seen by reporters Sunday, contained an implied threat if a ransom demand is not paid.

"If this case is solved quickly I will wait for the ransom. If it takes so long, I will send them to the Thai border," said the letter, signed "army of National Democratic Kampuchea — commander."

The NADK is the official name of the Khmer Rouge.

The reference to "send them to the Thai border" is a euphemism for killing the hostage, said sources closely involved in earlier efforts to free Western hostages.

A ransom of gold worth approximately $46,000 was being sought for each hostage, the letter said. It also requested five "rado" brane watches, a gold-plated timepiece popular with Cambodians.

A senior Cambodian government official said Mr. Slater, the British hostage, had fallen ill last week. He was known to be suffering from dysentery contracted n earlier travels through India, his friends said.

The government said Wilson was also ill from the primitive conditions of the jungle camp where the hostages are being held at Vine Mountain, about 150 kilometres south of Phnom Penh.

All three men have been forced to labour in swampy fields, planting rice and building dikes.

A consignment of anti-malarial medicine and antibiotics was sent to the guerrilla camp but there has been no confirmation it was received.

Three other Westerners, two Britons and an Australian, taken in April in southern Sihanoukville province by gunmen believed to be Khmer Rouge are now feared dead.

The outlawed Maoist faction, responsible for the deaths of one million Cambodians during a 1970s reign of terror, continues to reject national reconciliation and wage a low-level guerrilla war in support of its own "provisional government" established last month.

# AIDS conference opens as Asian cases explode

YOKOHAMA, Japan (R) — A dramatic increase in Asian AIDS cases and lack of progress in finding a cure overshadowed Sunday's opening session of the 10th international conference on the disease.

The air of pessimism could increase further Monday when French researchers are expected to report that billions of dollars have been wasted on research into an AIDS drug because scientists have misunderstood the virus.

The London Sunday Telegraph reported that Professor Jean-Marie Andrieu and his team at the University of Paris will tell the Yokohama conference that existing cheaper drugs may be effective in halting progress of the disease.

Until now, most treatments have been aimed at boosting the immune system. But the telegraph said Prof. Andrieu's team had found evidence that doctors should instead be prescribing drugs to suppress the immune system.

The newspaper said Prof. Andrieu would reveal the results of a pilot study in which 27 volunteers who had contracted the AIDS virus were given the immunosuppressant drug Cyclosporin.

Before taking the drug their immune systems were in decline but during the trial period not one patient developed full-blown AIDS.

A study published earlier this year showed that AZT, a drug that had been one of the biggest hopes in the fight against the disease, did not slow down the onset of AIDS in people infected with HIV, as had been thought.

However, it may be able to stop the transmission of HIV from mother to child, offering hope for millions of infected women of child-bearing age.

Professor Yuichi Shiokawa, chairman of the conference organising committee, told Sunday's opening ceremony: "We should look squarely at the reality that we have not yet developed an effective drug or vaccine for AIDS."

# New Colombian president hit by drug allegations

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Ernesto Samper, an economist who wants to soften the pain of free market reforms, takes power Sunday as president of Colombia after an election tarnished by allegations that drug traffickers helped him finance a victory.

Samper, 44, won a narrow triumph in a runoff ballot on June 19 but his celebrations were immediately overshadowed by the release of tape recordings in which two of the country's most powerful drug lords, Miguel and Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, were heard to discuss a donation of more than $3 million to his Liberal Party campaign.

Mr. Samper admitted that Colombia's wealthy and powerful cocaine traffickers had offered money to his campaign, as well as to his conservative rival. But, he insisted that their overtures were rejected.

Mr. Samper said his only contact with drugs traffickers was when two of their hired guns tried to assassinate him at Bogota Airport in March 1989, an attack that almost killed him and left four bullets in his body.

The cassettes are being investigated by the Colombian prosecutor-general's office, so far without results. Local officials say that although they strongly suggest that traffickers offered money to Mr. Samper's campaign, they do not provide conclusive evidence that any cash was taken.

The "narco-cassette" scandal caused deep misgivings in Washington and diplomats say that while the Clinton administration appears to have given Mr. Samper the benefit of the doubt for now, he will be under pressure to produce early results in the war on the cocaine traffickers.

Despite the killing by police last December of Medellin cocaine king Pablo Escobar, anti-drug agents say the flood of narcotics out of Colombia to the United States and Europe continues as strongly as ever, led by traffickers based in and around the southwestern city of Cali.

Police raids against the Cali kingpins have been largely unsuccessful and government officials privately acknowledge that one of the main problems has been the corruption of the security forces by the cartels.

Earlier this week, the deputy commander of Cali Police and 16 senior colleagues were sacked for allegedly taking bribes from drug traffickers. A day earlier, 21 police accused of helping drug couriers smuggle narcotics onto planes were removed from their posts at Bogota's international airport.

Mr. Samper inherits from his popular predecessor Cesar Gaviria a liberalised economy growing at around five per cent a year and poised for an oil boom as a giant new oilfield in the eastern plains gradually comes on stream.

Mr. Gaviria is barred by the constitution from seeking re-election and was elected earlier this year the secretary-general of the Organisation of American States (OAS) in Washington, a post he will take up later this month.

Analysts credit him with a notable economic reform but point out that the growth has been unevenly spread. The cities and the middle classes have benefited most but the poor and those in rural areas have been hard hit by the pruning of the state and the blast of foreign competition.

Although Mr. Samper is from the same party as Gaviria, he is further to the left and his campaign pledges included promises to create 1.5 million new jobs, boost social spending and use subsidies to ease the pain for farmers and some industries.

# Sri Lanka's hinterland gears for landmark poll

MATARA, Sri Lanka (AFP) — A saffron-robed Buddhist monk preaching anti-government rhetoric in this coastal town compounds the worries of Sri Lanka's ruling party in the runup to a crucial election.

Athuraliye Ratne, 31, has a small following for his leftist Janatha Mithuro, or People's Friends, but has already proved a nuisance to the governing United National Party (UNP) which lost a local election here in March.

"We want a new era. We need independence and freedom. We are saying don't vote for the UNP," Mr. Ratne said at his small abode last week shortly after applying for a permit to use loud speakers to carry his message further.

Supporters of the main opposition People's Alliance (PA) have more man power to go door-to-door lobbying for their candidates contesting the Aug. 16 general elections to the 225-member national parliament.

PA candidate and former MP, Mangla Samaraweera says vociferous pressure groups like Janatha Mithuro indirectly help the opposition. But such radicals are also raising expectations of young voters to dizzy heights.

"Victory is easy. Voters are sending us to parliament with huge expectations. We will have to deliver within the first year and that is not going to be that easy," said Mr. Samaraweera, 37, while on his campaign.

Hundreds of young unemployed men and women gather at his home here every morning, sip tea and read newspapers while waiting to run errands, distribute leaflets and put up posters.

Mr. Samaraweera has been a human rights campaigner and documented some 4,000 cases of disappearances during the government's crack down here of the Sinhalese People's Liberation Front or the JVP between 1988 and 1990.

"Human rights is no longer an issue here. It is not the cost of living or the (separatist Tamil guerrilla) war in the northeast. The main issues are no longer issues. People have had enough. They want a change," he said.

# Sect leader vows to return to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — The leader of a messianic Islamic sect outlawed by the government has vowed to return to Malaysia "as soon as possible", the Star newspaper reported Sunday.

"I will return home to face the prime minister," Al Arqam leader Ashaari Mohammad told the newspaper in an interview in Jordan's capital, Amman.

Malaysia Friday announced a sweeping ban on the sect, which claims 100,000 followers in Malaysia and many more elsewhere.

Malaysian religious authorities say the mystical Sufi sect teaches a "deviationist" brand of Islam.

Among the dozen reasons given by the National Fatwah Council for banning the sect, founded in 1968, was Mr. Ashaari's claim to have had a dialogue with the Prophet Mohammad.

The Star quoted the 57-year-old Ashaari as saying he would sue Mr. Mahathir over statements the prime minister has made about him and Al Arqam.

Mr. Mahathir, in remarks to reporters Friday, compared Mr. Ashaari with cult figures like Branch Davidian leader David Koresh, who died along with some 80 others in a shootout with U.S. federal agents and ensuing fire in Waco, Texas.

"If we have to break up their communes, we will do that," Mr. Mahathir said.

The ban would shut down 257 schools the sect operates in Malaysia, and forbids people to own, print or sell the group's audio or video cassettes, the 64 books Mr. Ashaari has published or an abundance of other Al Arqam literature.

It would also require the group's many businesses, owned by individual members, to stop using the Al Arqam brand name.

Several state governments have announced they will shut down some of the sect's 48 Islamic communes in Malaysia.

Al Arqam press spokesman Rody Mohammad said life was continuing normally at the group's main commune in a Kuala Lumpur suburb.

Children were attending the kindergarten and primary school. The mini-market and book store were also operating.

He said the movement would not comply with the ban, but would not put up any physical resistance to the authorities, either.

Police Inspector General Rahim Noor said police would start enforcing the ban once the decree is gazetted by the various state governments, a process that could take a week or two.

Mr. Rahim told a news conference Saturday the authorities would "go to any length" to ensure public safety.

Mr. Ashaari appealed to his followers in Malaysia to remain calm, the Star said.

Mr. Ashaari left Thailand for Jordan on July 25 after Thai authorities declined to renew his visa. He has lived in self-imposed exile in Thailand since 1988, when his teachings were first banned in Malaysia.

Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei have barred him from visiting after the sect aroused security concerns in South East Asia.

Three Al Arqam members, including a Sessions Court judge, filed suit against the government's Islamic Affairs Office Friday saying the government has falsely accused the sect of maintaining a squad of "suicide warriors" in Thailand.

Thailand has denied the accusation.

# Mexican rebels to hold democratic convention

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (R) — An ambitious convention called by Mayan peasant guerrillas that aims to lay the groundwork for democratic reform in Mexico began Saturday in this elegant colonial city in the southern state of Chiapas.

Several thousand delegates representing indigenous, grass-roots and popular organisations from around Mexico convened the "national democratic convention," which Sunday will transfer its proceedings to territory held by guerrillas of the Zapatista National Liberation Army.

The self-styled Zapatista rebels, who rose up in arms on Jan. 1 to demand democratic, legal and land reform, called the convention to help create a broad-based civilian movement to push for greater democracy and fight any attempts at fraud in upcoming presidential elections.

Delegates discussed a range of reforms they said were needed in Mexico, including: Constitutional reform, new election laws, an end to corruption among public servants, and the severing of links between the Mexican state and any one political party.

The ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has governed Mexico for 65 years without interruption, and Zapatistas have described its hold on power as one of the main reasons for their uprising.

# U.S. firefighters gain on wildfires

SEATTLE (R) — More than 22,500 firefighters gained ground on wildfires in the west as a cold front blowing in from the Pacific slowed many blazes, fire officials said Saturday.

But the front was expected to bring little or no rain to dampen the tinder-dry western forests, said Charlene Browning of the National Interagency Fire Centre.

"Wildfire activity is expected to continue due to fire conditions," Ms. Browning told Reuters.

More than 22,500 men and women, including 5,600 U.S. army, marine and National Guard troops, are deployed to fight 39 major fires and hundreds of smaller blazes in eight Western states, Ms. Browning said.

The major fires alone involved an estimated 325,000 acres (131,500 hectares) of timber and range land in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, California, Utah, Nevada and Arizona, Mr. Browning said.

In Washington state, despite brisk winds fire lines have held around two major fires, the 119,000-acre (48,000-hectare) Tyee fire near the town of Chelan and the 29,000-acre (11,700-hectare) Hatchery Fire Complex in the mountains above the small town of Leavenworth.

Over the past two weeks, the two fires have forced hundreds of people to flee their homes, destroyed 37 houses and more than 75 other structures, and closed major state highways.

Firefighters were being pulled off the Tyee and Hatchery fires for reassignment to smaller fires in the northwest, many of which were growing rapidly, said Chris Strebig, a spokesman for the multi-agency coordinating centre.

In Washington and Oregon together, fires involving more than 278,000 acres (112,500 hectares) continued to burn uncontrolled, Mr. Strebig said.

A group of firefighters from Arkansas works to establish a fire line near a home threatened by the wildfire near Chelan, Washington. The fires have burned more than 175,000 acres in Washington and damaged at least 37 homes (AFP photo)

## I'm leaving, says Peru's first lady

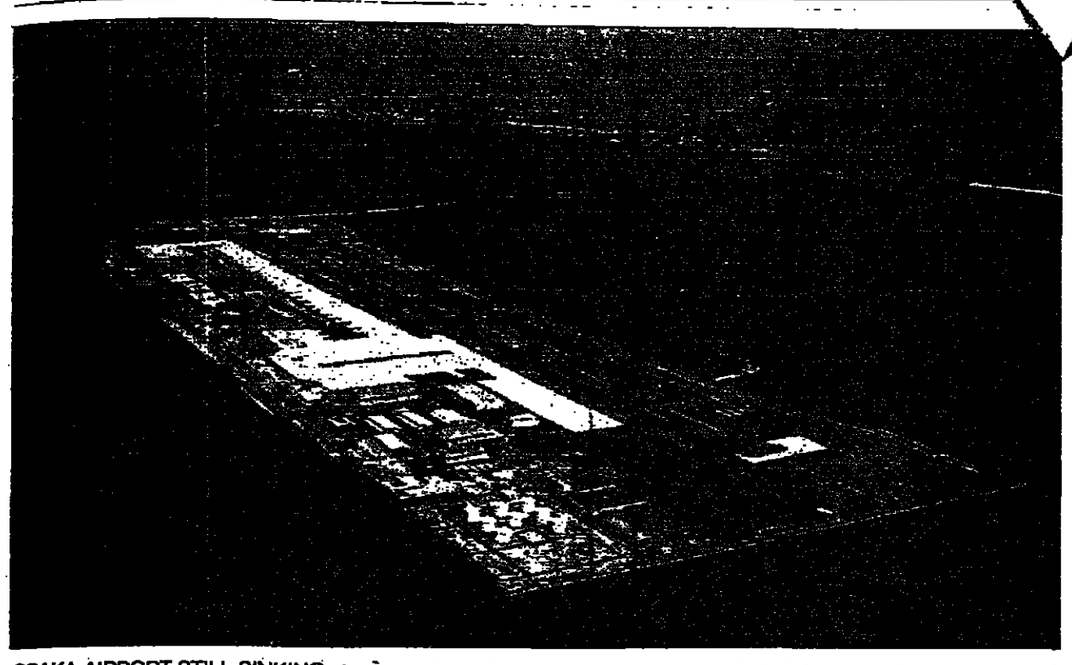
LIMA (AFP) — Peru's first lady has moved out of the presidential palace after Congress passed a law effectively barring her from running for political office, sources close to her said Saturday. Susana Higuchi de Fujimori, whose marriage to President Alberto Fujimori has been widely rumoured to be rocky, might be weighing a divorce and a political career of her own, observers said. The president is expected to seek reelection next year. The first lady has criticised him publicly, saying social concerns must be a higher priority in a country in which the majority of people live below the poverty line. Congress, which is controlled by lawmakers loyal to the president, passed a law barring the spouse and relatives of the Peruvian president from running for the presidency, vice presidency or Congress itself. The first lady, who has moved into a friend's home in Lima with a tight official security contingent in tow, officially has questioned the constitutionality of the law. Several constitutional experts have sided with her. But after Congress, the attorney general's office and the national electoral board rejected her petitions to have the law reconsidered, the first lady packed up and move out.

## Jackson brings gifts to Hungairan children

BUDAPEST (AFP) — Walking from bed to bed in the Budapest hospital, allowing the young patients to reach out and touch him, Michael Jackson appeared indeed to be "redeeming Eastern Europe," as in the title of his next album. The pop star and his wife Lisa-Marie Presley handed out dolls and dinosaur toys to children in the Pal Heim Hospital in the Pest district of the Hungarian capital, attracting the kind of fervour more often associated with royalty. With his braid and epaulettes and his customary dark hat, Jackson received a rapturous welcome from all but a few tots disconcerted by his dark glasses. Presley, daughter of the legendary "king" of rock and roll Elvis Presley, was making her first public appearance with her husband since the announcement of their marriage last Monday. The couple were greeted at the hospital entrance by 200 fans who had been standing in the sweltering heat for up to six hours for the opportunity to gaze adoringly at their idol — or at the backs of his bodyguards — and scream "Michael! Michael!" A similar scenario was enacted at the Bethesda Hospital, also in Pest, where some of the fans, including one who had travelled from the Austrian capital Vienna, had adopted a Jacksonsque hairstyle and dressed and made themselves up to resemble their hero. After the two hour-long hospital visits the couple retired to the Kempinski Hotel in Deak Square, in the centre of the city, and did not reappear. Jackson is making a three-day visit to Budapest to film a video for his forthcoming album entitled Redeeming Eastern Europe. The video is to be filmed Sunday in the Hungarian royal castle in the Buda Hills and on Andrassy Avenue. Jackson's agents have recruited young people to appear in the video as members of a peace force who, under Jackson's leadership, "save" Budapest by driving out Soviet troops.

## Billy Idol leaves hospital after overdose

LOS ANGELES (R) — Rock star Billy Idol, who has battled addictions to heroin and painkilling drugs, was released from a hospital Saturday after an apparent overdose that had put him in critical condition, authorities said. A spokeswoman for Saint Joseph Medical Centre in Burbank said Idol, 38, was admitted in critical condition Friday night and his condition had been upgraded to fair and stable by Saturday morning. Idol's publicist, Ellen Zoe Golden, said Idol was released shortly after noon pdt (4:00 p.m. edt) (1900 GMT). "He's been released. He's on his way to rest and recover," she said. Ms. Golden said she believed that the British punk rocker had overdosed on drugs but could not provide details. Fire Department officials said paramedics took Idol to the hospital after being called to his home on reports of a drug overdose.



OSAKA AIRPORT STILL SINKING: An aerial view of Japan's Kansai International Airport, the 511-hectare (1,262 acre) man-made island in Osaka Bay, located five kilometres (three miles) off the coast. Osaka's new Kansai International Airport is still sinking as the reclaimed land settles and is finally preparing to open on Sept. 4 (AFP

# Castro admits some Cubans are unhappy

BOGOTA (Agencies) — Cuban leader Fidel Castro conceded Saturday that part of his Communist-ruled island's population was unhappy but said the "immense majority" of Cuba's people were solidly behind him and his government despite recent unrest.

Mr. Castro was asked by reporters on arrival at Bogota Airport for Colombia's presidential inauguration Sunday of Ernesto Samper about clashes Friday between stone-throwing protesters and Cuban police in Havana.

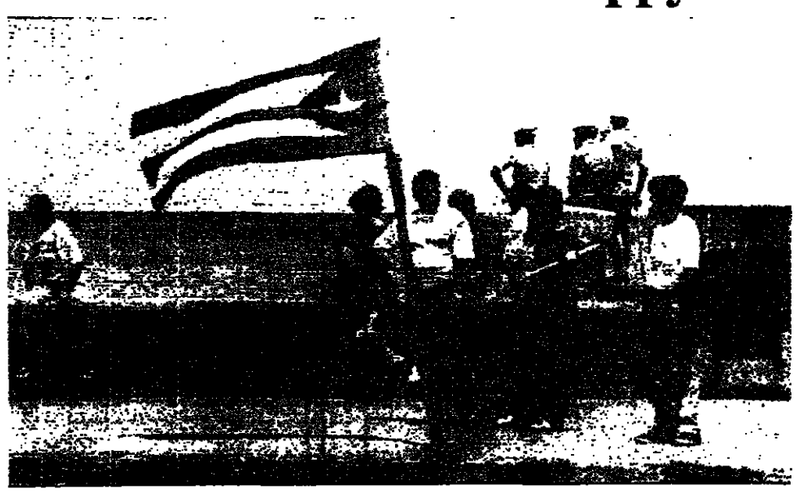
The incidents were described by some Colombian media as the most serious protests against Mr. Castro's Communist government since the 1959 revolution that brought him to power.

"We are not happy with the difficulties and we fight against them and we make progress but we really are going through a difficult moment and it's true that there is what you are calling dissatisfaction, discontent in a part of the population," Mr. Castro said.

"But we must also take into account an immense patriotism in the immense majority of the population which understands the causes of the problems which we have and which is firm in its defence of the fatherland, the revolution and socialism."

Mr. Castro has repeatedly blamed the severe economc crisis of his island and its food shortages on the United States trade embargo against Cuba.

He is due to return to Cuba late Sunday after attending the inauguration of Mr. Samper, who has staunchly defended Colombia's decision last year to re-establish diplomatic relations with Havana and wants to strengthen ties between the two countries.



Civilians armed with clubs guard the waterfront of Havana, Cuba, after demonstrators smashed windows and hurled stones at police. The riots started in response to news that a third commuter ferry in 10 days had been hijacked by Cubans seeking to flee to the United States (AFP photo)

Meanwhile, police and Communist Party militants guarded the Havana waterfront after a rare show of political unrest in Cuba, sparked by a wave of refugees fleeing the island nation.

President Castro gave no figures on the damages caused by the melee in which thousands of anti-government demonstrators battled police with sticks and stones Friday and looted stores.

The Mexican government news agency Notimex said the crowd was drawn to the harbour Friday by reports that fleeing Cubans had hijacked a ferry for the fourth time in two weeks.

Notimex said there were numerous injuries and arrests, and among those arrested were several people who hijacked the ferryboat Baragua Thursday. Authorities refused to give details.

News reports said two policemen were killed during that hijack. The Baragua ran out of fuel about 11 miles (17 kms) off the Cuban coast and was brought back to the island by patrol boats.

Fernando Rojas of the Miami-based Cuban American National Foundation spoke Saturday to a dissident in Cuba who did not want to be identified.

"The word that we've been getting is things are calmer but there's a lot of people milling around," the dissident said. "There's a very very heavy police presence. We heard from one of the dissidents that the government kept the lights on all throughout the night because they were scared of having the protests continue throughout the night."

So far this year, nearly 5,000 Cubans have made it to Florida — 173 in just the first four days of August, the Coast Guard said in Miami. The Coast Guard said it picked up 75 Cubans Saturday from boats and rafts.

The demonstrators chanted "liberty democracy enough" before clashes began with police and the militants Friday, Notimex and witnesses said.

A Cuban who spoke with the Associated Press on condition of anonymity said some of the demonstrators were armed with pistols and fired shots while angry crowds stoned the Deauville Hotel on the waterfront.

"Thousands of people supporting Castro rushed into the streets after hearing the shots, with clubs and steel rods," he said.

On Saturday, police and pro-government workers with sticks patrolled the harbourd area, closing streets to all traffic.

# Guerrillas kill pregnant Catholic in N. Ireland

OMAGH, Northern Ireland (R) — Suspected Protestant guerrillas shot and killed a pregnant Roman Catholic mother of five in her bedroom overnight, police said Sunday.

The woman, 38, was killed when gunmen, believed by police to be from one of the extreme Protestant groups loyal to British rule in Northern Ireland, broke into her house.

"She evidently heard them force their way through the back door and had got out of bed," said a police spokesman in Omagh, where the attack took place. "They shot her a number of times in the bedroom."

Her children, all under the age of eight, were in the house but were unhurt. A 17-month-old boy was in a cot by her bed.

Police said the woman's husband came home a few hours after the attack to find her dead and their children distraught. Security sources said he had once been imprisoned for possessing arms and may have been the intended target of the gunmen.

The woman's death brings to 52 the number of people killed in political and sectarian violence this year. On Friday, the outlawed Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force killed a man it said was an IRA informer. The IRA denied this.

"This was a savage, barbaric and totally unjustified cold-blooded murder," another police spokesman said of the attack on the woman near Omagh.

A burned-out car was found nearby, a trademark of such attacks in which guerrillas set fire to vehicles to destroy evidence.

The murder was typical of recent attacks by so-called loyalist groups on "soft" Catholic targets as part of their resistance to Anglo-Irish peace initiatives and their war against the Irish Republican Army, which is fighting British rule.

Earlier the same evening, police in Belfast said a soldier and a police officer were hurt when suspected IRA guerrillas fired a grenade of a checkpoint near the centre of town.

Security sources say they are worried that each side of the sectarian divide in Northern Ireland is stepping up violence to provoke a backlash from the other in cynical efforts to gain sympathy for their respective causes.

# Kinkel criticises Kohl for German coalition talk

BONN (R) — Klau Kinkel, leader of Germany's poll-battered liberal Free Democrats (FDP), Sunday criticised Chancellor Helmut Kohl for saying a grand coalition with their Social Democratic (SPD) rivals was a theoretical possibility.

The Free Democrats are junior partners in Mr. Kohl's coalition government, but they have been mauled in several regional elections this year. There is a general election in October.

Mr. Kinkel, who is foreign minister as well as FDP leader, said he found it incomprehensible Mr. Kohl should even toy with the SPD.

"After all, the (Kohl) has laid out his position, that he wants to continue the coalition with the FDP and that from his point of view, it can be achieved," Mr. Kinkel told German Radio.

"I do not understand why he is speculating, considering other things at a time when there is really no need for it."

Both allies and opponents of the veteran chancellor have been left confused by Mr. Kohl's unexpected remark that a grand coalition was a theoretical possibility, made earlier this week in a television interview while on holiday in Austria.

Although Kohl described the speculation sparked by his comments as "nonsense" during the ensuing turmoil, his junior FDP coalition partners have reacted with some nervousness.

In the television interview," Kohl said the best outcome of the Oct. 16 parliamentary election was a continuation of the centre-right government, but that "all democratic parties" should in principle be prepared to work together.

"We aren't considering any other type of coalition," Mr. Kinkel said, adding that it was Mr. Kohl who had put pressure on the FDP into clearly committing itself to the DCU.

"I am somewhat surprised, should voice such consideration."

Mr. Kinkel added: "Just imagine the criticism that would be directed at the FDP if we came out and said we could by all means imagine forming another kind of coalition."

CDU General Secretary Peter Hintze, anxious to quell talks about a CDU-SPD pact, of which there has only been one since World War II, has stressed Mr. Kohl's desire to emerge on Oct. 16 at the head of the same coalition as over the past 12 years.

But that has not prevented the SPD from hailing Mr. Kohl's remarks as an endorsement for its suitability to govern and as a sign the chancellor does not believe the CDU can win in October.

The speculation has been fuelled by the FDP's humiliating showing in European and local ballots this year, while opinion polls show the Liberals teetering on the edge of the five per cent hurdle needed to reenter parliament.

In a surprisingly public display of nerves, Mr. Kinkel recently wrote to party delegates telling them the FDP was fighting for its life.

The liberals, who won 11 per cent of the vote in the last elections in 1990, tried to sharpen their profile at a congress in June to try to win back voter's hearts and minds.

Mr. Kinkel said in the radio interview it was possible the FDP has suffered a loss of faith among voters because it had not distanced itself enough from the CDU.

"But, with regard to the coming election, we will sharpen (our profile)," he said.

# Haiti expects U.S. invasion

PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) — Haiti's military chief Raoul Cedras said in an interview aired Saturday that a U.S. invasion was inevitable and predicted it would be bloody.

"I don't think that any arrangement can be made to avoid an invasion of Haiti," he said in an interview from the Haitian capital with CNN television.

"It has been decided to invade and we are awaiting this moment," Gen. Cedras said, adding: "We are getting ready. As soldiers we have sworn to defend our country."

The United Nations approved a resolution Sunday giving the greenlight for a U.S.-led invasion of the Caribbean nation to force the military to step aside and reinstate ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"If they (the U.S. military) intervene, it will be bloodshed on both sides," Gen. Cedras said through an interpreter. "It will be to kill a lot of military and a lot of civilians also."

Several hundred civilians participated Saturday in training exercises with the Haitian army in preparation for an invasion. Most of them were members of the pro-military Civil Resistance Front.

Gen. Cedras said the crisis sparked by the 1991 coup which toppled Mr. Aristide could be resolved through negotiations, but added: "We would need much dialogue and many exchanges."

He noted that there was support for holding new elections but would not say whether Mr. Aristide should be allowed to run.

President Bill Clinton's special advisor on Haiti echoed Gen. Cedras, saying the United States and Haiti were on a collision course that could lead to the use of force.

William Gray ruled out dialogue with Haiti's military leaders except on one point: "When will you step down, what time, and where will you go."

As long as the military refused to step down and restore democracy, said Mr. Gray in an interview with CNN, "I believe we are on a collision that could lead to the use of force."

The White House has set no deadline for an invasion and continues to pursue a course of diplomatic and economic pressure, Mr. Gray said, "hoping that the coup leaders come to their senses."

A Time-CNN poll meanwhile showed a majority of people in the United States — 61 per cent — remains opposed to sending U.S. forces for an invasion, up from 52 per cent in June.

Gen. Cedras' resignation to an invasion was reflected in the hard line the military-backed government has taken since U.N. Security Council Resolution 940 authorised military intervention.

After imposing a state of siege Monday, the government announced Thursday that the Minister of Justice had begun legal proceedings to charge Mr. Aristide with high treason.

Mr. Aristide was accused of sending a letter on July 29 to U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, which served as the basis for the Security Council resolution.

Colombia meanwhile closed its embassy "temporarily," and Argentina sent its five diplomats and nine guards to the neighbouring Dominican Republic.

"Argentine Ambassador Carlos Carrasco has chosen to leave Port-Au-Prince because of the repeated death threats he received as Argentina's representative," a diplomatic source said.

In Buenos Aires, Deputy Foreign Minister Fernando Petrella said Argentina was taking a wait-and-see stance for now.

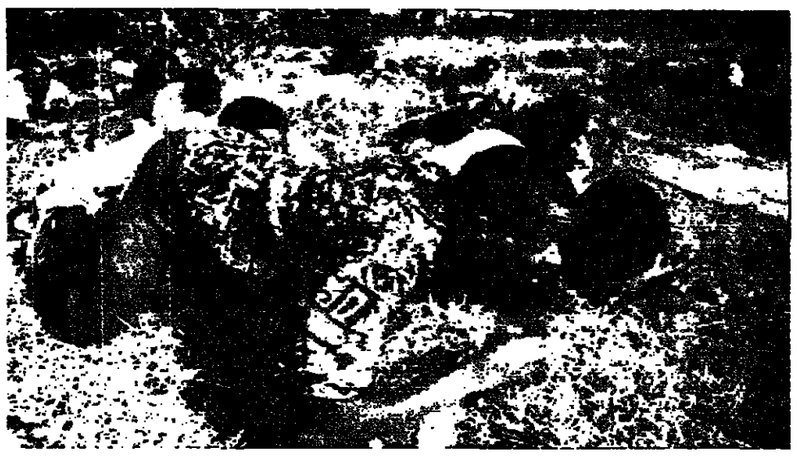
"We still have a long month and a half for the solution to be found," Mr. Petrella said, adding that the U.N. resolution "really helps a peaceful settlement to be possible."

Haiti's government also has turned a deaf ear to a rising clamour of calls from local political leaders for a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

Leslie Mangait, a Christian Democrat who briefly served as president, contended that both camps were "irreconcilable" and that the only way out was for both Mr. Aristide and Gen. Cedras to step down.

That view was echoed by the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Frantz Robert Monde, who said the resignation of both Mr. Aristide and Gen. Cedras was "the only consensus possible now."

But the likelihood of a negotiated solution appeared more distant as a last ditch diplomatic initiative by Venezuela has crumbled.



Haitian civilians, receiving military training outside the military headquarters in downtown Port-Au-Prince, move through the grass at a local park. Thousands of civilians received military instruction in an effort by the Haitian military to prepare for a possible U.S. invasion (AFP photo)

# Indian politicians ready for end to standoff

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and senior opposition leaders were soon expected to end a bitter confrontation over a $1.28 billion banking scandal, parliamentarians said Sunday.

They said Mr. Rao, ending his public aloofness over an issue that has disrupted India's parliament for two weeks, now sought a face-saving formula acceptable to both sides.

The opposition, which first paralysed parliament and then boycotted proceedings, has accused Mr. Rao of shielding several senior ministers blamed in a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) report on the 1992 scandal by rejecting its key findings.

Bankers and brokers were accused of collusion in siphoning off money illegally from the inter-bank market in government securities to invest on the booming Bombay Stock Market.

The opposition wants Mr. Rao to withdraw an action taken report — the government's response to the JPC's findings — from parliament. Finance Minister Manmohan Singh offered Friday to delete words which might have given offence and apologise.

Opposition leaders promptly rejected Mr. Singh's offer.

Deputies on both sides said Sunday Mr. Rao's formula on the crisis, yet to be made public, would go a little beyond Mr. Singh's apology.

"Something short of a total withdrawal of the Action Taken Report would be ideal," Chandulal Chandrakar, spokesman for the ruling Congress Party said. "We expect the opposition to end their boycott by Tuesday," he added confidently.

Opposition deputies said their campaign was in danger of running out of steam if the government did not respond quickly.

Analysts said Mr. Rao was also unhappy with a parliament without an opposition.

Lawmakers said Mr. Rao's meeting Saturday with Atal Behari Vajpayee, the chief opposition leader and deputy of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), could be the beginning of the thaw.

# N.Korea may have plutonium for 3 to 4 atomic bombs

SEOUL (Agencies) — North Korea may possess enough plutonium, the main ingredient for a nuclear weapon, to build three or four nuclear warheads, a Seoul newspaper said Sunday.

The influential Chosun Ilbo quoted an unidentified senior government official as saying the North had halted the operation of its five-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon, north of Pyongyang, three times since 1989.

"The official said the stoppages were for 71 days in 1989, a month in 1990 and 50 days in 1991.

"In this context, North Korea is presumed to have extracted 22 to 27 kilograms of plutonium," Chosun quoted the official as saying. The amount is enough to produce three or four atomic bombs.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency said there was a better than ever chance the North had extracted enough plutonium from the Yongbyon reactor in 1989 to build at least one nuclear weapon.

Sunday's claims marked the firt time a South Korean government official had said North Korea also halted the operation of the Yongbyon reactor in 1990 and 1991, the daily said.

Official comment on the news report was not available.

Seoul is known to have relied heavily on information provided by Washington regarding the North's nuclear capability.

CIA Director James Woolsey said in June that failure to halt the North's nuclear programme could mean it could have enough plutonium for five more bombs later this year.

The United States and North Korea adjourned crucial talks in Geneva on Pyongyang's nuclear programme until Monday after one day of resumed negotiations Friday.

Meanwhile South Korea police raided a local publishing house Sunday and seized 15,000 copies of a North Korean-published autobiography of the North's late leader Kim Il Sung.

The police raid was part of an ongoing crackdown on pro-North Korean activities that has affected mostly radical student groups.

Police said they were looking for Lee Hee-Kun, 33, president of Kasowon, a local publishing house, on charges of attempting to publish the four-volume Kim Il Sung memoir in the South.

Publishing material from North Korea without government permission is illegal in South Korea under strict national security laws. The two nations have been bitter rivals since the peninsula was divided after World War II into the North and the South.

Mr. Kim's autobiography was published by an official North Korean publishing house and has been secretly distributed among radical South Korean students as propaganda, intelligence officials said.

The anti-North Korean crackdown started last month after some radical students eulogised Mr. Kim, who died July 8 of heart failure, as a national leader who led the formerly unified Korea to independence from Japanese colonial rule in 1910-1945.

Most South Koreans revile Mr. Kim as the man who started the 1950-1953 Korean War, which left 2.5 million people dead in both Koreas.

Students and dissident groups made no immediate response to Sunday's police raid, but they have been accusing the government of using old ideological fears to suppress student movements which are often anti-government and anti-U.S.

The North's official media has recently turned up vitriolic criticism on the Seoul government for failing to show condolences over Mr. Kim's death.

Meanwhile, a man claiming to be a North Korean lumbejack defected to South Korea from Siberia aboard a Russian freighter that arrived in the southern port of Pusan Sunday, government intelligence official said.

The agency for National Security Planning, the government's main spy agency, said An Chung Hak, 36, was found suffering from dehydration in the bottom of the Russian freighter carrying lumber.

He was immediately admitted to a hospital for treatment, they said.

Mr. An became the third North Korean to defect to the capitalist South since Kim Il Sung's death on July 8 and the 28th so far this year.

About 15,000 North Korean loggers are reportedly working in Siberia under contracts with Russia. Seoul officials say up to 170 loggers have escaped, hoping to defect to South Korea.

Northern defectors reported acute food and fuel shortages in their country.

# Taiwan, China reach agreement

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan and China ended eight days of talks with an agreement Sunday to repatriate hijackers, breaking a deadlock that marred previous meetings, and hailed the accord as a major breakthrough.

Leaders of the two delegations to the sixth round of talks in the laborious process of detente between the two rival Chinese governments said the agreement would be signed at a later meeting between more senior officials.

"You can say there has been a major breakthrough in all the three main issues in the talks," said Chiao Jen-Ho, secretary general of Taiwan's quasi-official Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF), which handles links with Beijing in the absence of official ties.

"What is important is that we have reached consensus, whether we sign sooner or later is not important," Mr. Chiao told a joint news conference after four days of talks with Tang Shubei, secretary general of China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS).

The talks between the private representatives of the two governments were preceded by four days of technical level meetings.

"Mr. Tang was very sincere and responsible," Mr. Chiao said of the highest ranking Chinese official to visit Taiwan since the Nationalists fled to Taiwan and banned official contact with Beijing after losing the Chinese Civil War in 1949.

The breakthrough came when China conceded Taiwan's demand it had the right to exclude some hijackers from repatriation if it determines they have valid political or religious motives. China had said Taiwan did not have the legal authority to make such a decision.

Otherwise, hijackers will now be sent back after completion of the investigation process.

Taiwan is holding 16 mainland Chinese asylum-seekers who have hijacked 12 civilian Chinese airliners to the island since April, 1993. The two sides also agreed to apply the repatriation procedure to other criminals and suspects.

**Jordan Times**

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1975

جريدة تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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*Facsimile:* 696183

*The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.*

# Peace for all

**LESS THAN two weeks after the signing of the Washington Declaration, Jordan and Israel are taking serious steps to implement agreements reached in the historic document. Telephone lines between the two countries are now operational, talks over opening Jordanian and Israeli airspace to civilian airlines seem to have reached an advanced stage and a crossing point between Aqaba and Eilat for third country nationals will be inaugurated today.**

**For some, the speed with which Jordan and Israel are moving towards reaching peace might seem a bit too overwhelming. Considering the decades of conflict between the two states, it is natural that some people feel this way about the new chapter that the Kingdom and Israel are opening. But it is also natural that the two states waste no time in solving all their conflicts for the common purpose of bringing about peace and stability to their region and peoples. In that sense, the speed is at least justified, at most necessary.**

**And by any serious standard, the road towards peace is still long and thorny.**

**That Jordan wants peace is a foregone conclusion. But so is the fact that the peace it seeks is a just, lasting and comprehensive one that can ensure to all parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict their rights to their lands, water, security and sovereignty over their land and future.**

**That leaves the ball in the Israeli court, for it is the aggressor which is occupying Jordanian land and usurping Arab rights. Moreover, Israel is the party which has wasted the so many chances for peace offered by Arab countries over the years of conflict.**

**The talks over land and water rights that Jordan and Israel will resume tomorrow are a test ground for Israel's intentions. Jordan is entering the talks to secure its rights. The agenda it signed with the Jewish state last year is the yardstick against which Jordan will conduct the negotiations. Once, and not before, the issues on the agenda have been resolved, a peace treaty will be a subject of discussion.**

**Israel has to understand that and proceed with its talks accordingly. It should not be disillusioned to believe that the peace Jordan is pursuing is peace at any price.**

**But it will be naive to expect Israel to concede to the Kingdom's demands so willingly. History speaks against such an expectation. Israel has always tried to get away with everything. It will try that again in its coming talks with Jordan. Jordanian negotiators are aware of that and hence are their continued assertions that the negotiations are going to be difficult and long.**

**The crossing point that will open today in the south is a symbolic gesture of what peace could bring. It should therefore work as an incentive to the Israelis to help put relations in the region on the right track. Only third country nationals will be able to use the new crossing point. The objective is to have the borders open first and for all the people of the area, those who have paid dearly for the abnormal state of affairs that prevailed in the Middle East for so long. That could be a long way from happening. But it is not impossible to achieve if Israel works towards real and genuine peace.**

**That would entail movement on all tracks of the Arab-Israeli negotiations. The objective is clear: Peace for all. The way to achieve it is also clear: An Israeli withdrawal from occupied Jordanian, Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian land and end to all forms of Israeli aggression against Arabs, their rights and their resources.**

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RAI daily Sunday said the Washington Declaration was the line separating peace and war, ending 46 years of the state of war between Jordan and Israel. The paper said in its editorial that the signing of this declaration July 25 should have removed the obstacles impeding the progress of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations. The inauguration of the border crossing post between the two sides in south Jordan tomorrow (Monday) comes in implementation of five steps endorsed by the Washington Declaration to get rid of the patrimony of war and is also considered part of Jordanian official measures taken to enhance mutual confidence with the Israelis, said the paper. It continued that what is taking place at the present time is not a termination of the negotiations process, but rather opening a new beginning for it. It said the Jordanian confidence-building measures are ought to have provided the suitable climate to accelerate the negotiations. Now Israel should meet the Jordanian confidence-building measures with similar steps, and the acceleration of negotiations over land, borders and water will be a good step for Israel to prove its good will and its commitment to the Washington Declaration, the paper said. It concluded by saying that with the exception of the Israeli Knesset's approval of the declaration and the Jewish state's pumping of water to Jordan, Tel Aviv is still slow in meeting Jordanian goodwill gestures with similar steps.

**Human Rights File**

By Waleed Sadi

# When individuals' rights conflict with laws and the state

CAN A country deny one of its people a passport if he does not report for military duty at a certain age. This human rights question came up recently before the Human Rights Committee (HRC) in Geneva when a complainant living outside his country applied to renew his passport to his country's embassy where he is resident but was turned down because he did not report for military service on a specified date after having reaching the age that made him a conscript. The man in question raised his right under Article 12 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). This particular article reads, inter alia, as follows: "Everyone lawfully within the territory of a state shall, within that territory, have the right to liberty and freedom to choose his residence." This provision goes on to state that "everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his own."

Of course there is also the stipulation that the above mentioned rights shall be subject to law provided that such constraints "are necessary to protect national security, public order, public health or morals or the rights and freedoms of others." This seemingly benign human rights issue consumed much debate among the members of the Human Rights Committee who are charged with the mandate of interpreting the various provisions of the ICCPR. What complicated the consideration of this particular case was the fact that the man in question did not need a valid passport in order to return to his country. He wanted the passport for other reasons, including the right to leave the country where he is living for another foreign country where a valid passport would be necessary. The committee members were not sure whether a state party may use the right to passport as an instrument to force conscripts to report for military duty. There was still a broad agreement among the 18-member-expert group that military service is of course acceptable under the covenant provided that conscientious objectors are given alternative service to military service.

This particular issue did not arise as the complainant did not apply for an alternative military service. He simply wanted a passport to travel, not to his country but to other foreign lands. There was also a consensus among the members that the freedom to leave any country, including one's own, would necessarily mean that the plaintiff in this case has the right to a passport to leave any country where he happens to be residing at a particular time.

After a lengthy debate, the majority ruled for the state party provided that the deprivation of the passport of a conscript is of temporary duration. There was a strong minority view that saw otherwise and concluded that no state party may deploy the issuance or the no issuance of a passport in order to force a conscript to report for military duty.

It so happened that the right to a passport and therefore to travel came in conflict with the state's right to have military service especially if conscripts have alternative service should they object to military service for a religious or philosophical reason. This case also illustrated how difficult can the discussions be on human rights issues.

Every law entails human rights dimensions and therefore, any right or duty can be adjudicated as a human rights issue in its own right. The committee spends much of time considering such issues when there are complainants. The only condition is that such people may not address their complaints to the Human Rights Committee before exhausting domestic remedies. This in turn means that they have gone to court in their own country and appealed the court decision which they view as contrary to the terms of the covenant. They must also show that their case can be first declared admissible by presenting a prima facie case under the covenant. If the complaint is so obviously shallow and ill-founded it would be rejected as inadmissible. It is only after a certain communication is declared admissible that its merits can be adjudicated. If the complainant happens to be on death row and had already exhausted domestic remedies and then seeks the intervention of the committee, the committee is empowered to issue a temporary injunction against the carrying of the death sentence pending the adjudication of the case by the committee. Normally, countries abide by the decision of the committee but there are certain situations when state parties act defiantly. Recently, Trinidad and Tobago carried out an execution sentence in spite of a last minute intervention by the committee. The state party claimed in that instance that it did not receive the 11th hour order of the committee on time. As one can see and detect, there is never a dull moment in the committee. It is either a race with time or deep division among the members on important human rights issues. But is always worth our time we the members of this tribunal to dissect human rights matters and interpret the covenant for the international community.

# Serb strongman moves against Bosnia Serbs

By Dan De Luce
*Reuter*

BELGRADE — Yugoslavia's move to sever ties with Bosnian Serb leaders marks a long-awaited showdown between Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and his proteges in Bosnia whose fervent nationalism has outgrown its appeal to Belgrade.

Facing tighter sanctions against his country, Mr. Milosevic reasons he must bring the Bosnian Serb leadership to heel or face unacceptable threats to his power at home from an economically beleaguered populace.

If Mr. Milosevic prevails over Serb leaders who refuse to accept a peace plan for Bosnia that the Serbian president publicly supports it will be a bitter defeat for hardline Serb nationalists, diplomats and local analysts said.

But Mr. Milosevic's crackdown could spark a backlash from Serbs at home in sympathy for their brothers in Bosnia, who feel abandoned by their long-time patron, and the loyalty of the Bosnian Serb army to their main supplier is unclear.

The face-off has pitted Mr. Milosevic, an arch-survivor in the Balkan political scene, against men he long backed to propagate the Bosnian war, led by Radovan Karadzic, the Sarajevo psychiatrist turned political leader of the separatist Serbs.

Authorities in rump Yugoslavia, comprising Serbia and Montenegro, said on Thursday they would cut all political and economic ties to the Bosnian Serbs in the first move by Belgrade to quell former allies who have outgrown their use.

Yugoslav border police halted hundreds of trucks on Friday trying to cross into Bosnia in a sign Mr. Milosevic meant to heed international requests to back threats with action.

Last May, Mr. Milosevic, criticising Bosnian Serbs for rejecting a previous peace plan, failed to fulfil a pledge to close the border with rebel Serb territory.

Now Mr. Milosevic is throwing his full weight behind his decision to remove Mr. Karadzic, Western diplomats said.

"The intention this time is to get rid of Karadzic and to prosecute this to the end," one diplomat said.

Mr. Milosevic's propaganda machine went into high gear on Thursday, as state-controlled television broadcast statements from a myriad of national and regional officials speaking out for the peace plan and against the Bosnian Serb leaders.

In a campaign clearly aimed at discrediting Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, pro-government media on Friday for the first time acknowledged the suffering of Sarajevo's civilians under rebel Serb shelling.

Politika, the main daily, and close to Mr. Milosevic, published an article castigating the Bosnian Serb chief.

"Once peace comes, the people cannot be led by the men who bombarded civilians in Sarajevo and those who, to the world's revulsion, promote their poetry over Sarajevo while the city was burning," the paper said.

Diplomats said Mr. Milosevic needed to achieve his goals quickly before unrest built up among the Bosnian Serbs and prior to stricter economic sanctions threatened by big-power peace plan backers being approved by the U.N. Security Council.

Bosnian Serbs depend heavily on financial and military aid from Belgrade and if the borders stay sealed, Mr. Milosevic could deal them a serious blow, most local analysts said.

But rebel Serbs appeared intent on raising the stakes on Friday by taking an increasingly aggressive stance in Sarajevo to trigger a response from the Muslim-led Bosnian army or U.N. commanders that would embarrass Mr. Milosevic.

Bosnian Serb forces seized heavy weapons from a U.N.-guarded compound in defiance of a threat of NATO air strikes. Western diplomats said NATO retaliation might highlight Bosnian Serb isolation and undercut Mr. Milosevic's campaign.

An unknown factor in Mr. Milosevic's scheme is the powerful and uncompromising Bosnian Serb army commander Ratko Mladic, who has stayed silent during the escalating power struggle this week. Political insiders say Mr. Mladic, who has pushed Mr. Karadzic into hardline positions in the past, is weighing his options.

Mr. Milosevic, blamed for starting the war in former Yugoslavia and who rose to power by whipping up nationalist fervour among Serbs, is now regarded as a traitor to the Serb cause by extreme nationalists, such as radical Vojislav Seselj.

There is sympathy for the Bosnian Serbs among ordinary Serbians, but analysts say Mr. Milosevic is prepared to crush unrest with his 80,000-strong police force, the backbone of his regime.

For students of Mr. Milosevic's career, his latest actions confirm his habit of discarding political rivals that threaten his claim to the throne of a future "greater Serbia."

"He has an extreme paranoia about his position as leader of Serbs," a Western diplomat said.

# Politicians remind Bangladeshis of military rule

By Anis Ahmad
*Reuter*

DHAKA — A damaging standoff in Bangladeshi politics is raising fears for the country's youthful democracy, with opposition politicians warning the army could feel encouraged to intervene as it has in the past.

Opposition members say the potential for intervention is due to the government's disregard of the opposition boycott of parliament. Others say that if the boycott ended, the threat of intervention would recede.

"A continued boycott... will certainly lead to collapse of parliament and invite a third force," veteran politician and respected lawyer Kamal Hussain told a rally of his Gano Forum Party in northern district of Pabna.

The opposition has for long been calling for early elections supervised by an interim government. The government however refuses to abolish itself and the opposition has boycotted parliament since February to try to force the government out.

Parliament has 330 members, of which the ruling Bangladesh National Party (BNP) holds 172. The BNP retains a quorum but the impasse deprives it of credibility.

Fears of a so-called "third force" were voiced recently by the opposition's chief whip in parliament, Mohammad Nasim, who said the government was conspiring to disrupt parliamentary democracy and transfer power to "evil forces."

A senior leader of the main opposition party Awami League, Mr. Nasim blamed the government for "keeping the opposition out of parliament... as a ploy for handing over power."

"If the fears come true, the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party will have to account for this to the nation," he said.

Political analysts say there is no doubt that politicians are referring to the army, which ruled Bangladesh through almost 15 years of its 22-year existence. They say such rule can exist under a civilian guise through co-opted politicians.

"Whatever 'force' our politicians have in mind today is definitely the armed force," one Dhaka university political scientist said.

He said Bangladeshis, who have seen more military uprisings than elections, know as well as politicians that a third or evil force could only come from the barracks.

BNP sources dismiss fears of intervention, saying the opposition is trying to invoke unfounded fears. "They are looking at every possibility to unseat the government," said one government leader, who declined to be identified.

Foreign diplomats in Dhaka said they feared any upheaval which could upset donors and destroy the country's efforts to stimulate foreign investment.

"Do you think the government will collapse? It will mean a major crisis for the country's nascent democracy," one Asian diplomat said.

"Unles both sides (government and opposition) agree, there will never be a free election and the stalemate will continue, maybe with some interval," said another diplomat.

The diplomats said, however, that the military was "highly tolerant of democracy."

Ordinary Bangladeshis, who embraced democracy by voting in the 1991 polls that brought Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to power, fear the prospect of intervention.

"We want no more disruptions. I only hope our politicians would realise the gravity of the situation before it's too late," said a teacher at a government school.

Members of the military refused to comment.

Military rule began in Bangladesh after August 1975 when the country's first president, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was killed in a military coup, along with most members of his family.

# Signs of Islamic fervour abound in Kuwait

By Inal Ersan
*Reuter*

KUWAIT — Foreign newspaper pictures of anyone scantily dressed bring down the wrath of Kuwaiti censors who daub offending skin in black ink or rip out entire pages.

the Muslim fundamentalist Al Mujtamaa magazine, in an act of rigorous self-censorship, set an altogether stricter standard in its July issue for its pictures of a group of women.

The women wore the shapeless head-to-toe black robe common in the Gulf, but in the original their faces were unveiled. In the published version only their eyes showed above blobs of ink.

Signs of Islamist fervour are part of everyday life in the small oil-producing emirate, where Muslim fundamentalist MPs are campaigning to create what they call a fully Islamic society.

The prestige of Kuwait's Islamists is high partly because of their role in civilian resistance to Iraq's 1990-91 occupation and reflects a rise in Muslim militancy through much of the Arab and Islamic world.

A man with a long beard receives donations for charities at one of hundreds of stalls set up by Islamists to seek support for the promotion of the religion in far corners of the world.

the man wears a short Arab robe instead of a long one normally worn in the Gulf to emulate what Islamists say was the way Prophet Mohammad dressed.

He also offers to give out tapes of religious sermons to anyone prepared to hand in their music cassettes in return.

Women preachers tell fellow women about the torture they might suffer after death for not wearing headscarves and say conservative dress will help eradicate social ills.

Some supermarkets have started to close at prayer time on the orders of fundamentalist managers, a step seen as a hardline interpretation of the Holy Koran.

At one supermarket a man buying groceries dropped his shopping bag and left angrily when he learned he had to wait while the cashiers prayed.

"After a long day of work I have to wait for you to finish prayer. Those cashiers could have each prayed in turn," he shouted as he shoved his cart angrily into the cashiers' desk.

Some Islamist clerics say debt problems and economic slump are divine punishment for failure to implement Islamic law.

Islamists are also campaigning to erode the influence of the government's leading liberal, U.S.-educated Education Minister Ahmad Al Rubei, whom they accuse of being anti-Islamist.

The Islamists say they do not want to overturn the existing order, merely make it more Islamic. They want segregation of men and women in all schools and colleges, a ban on bank interest charges, strict oversight of media to curb portrayals of women, banning some commission in trade deals and creation of a public authority to encourage strict Islamic behaviour.

The Islamist campaign is opposed by a diverse collection of liberals, Arab nationalists, democrats and leftists. They accuse Islamist MPs of advocating fundamentalism merely in the hope it will gain them votes from conservatives tribesmen at elections.

LETTER

# Who is to blame?

To the Editor:

WHEN WE read newspaper articles these days about the poor tawjihi results, we find that both the private schools and the public schools are blamed. Why don't we put the blame where it really lies, and that's with the examination itself. Basically the examination hasn't changed in the last 40 years. It still relies on memorisation as its main avenue for testing. Times have changed — most students do not have the patience or the learning style required to memorise books any more.

This "tawjihi-mania" causing schools to accept only those few students who can excel in the exam and to teach only for this outdated, subjective relic. This is not education.

Let's stop blaming each other and making excuses for poor results. We must work together to bring education to the 20th Century before we reach the 21st

Dr. Sue Dabdah,
Director,
Abdul Hamid Sharaf School,
Amman.

# Morocco to host major Mideast economic talks

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An unprecedented international conference on the economic aspects of the Middle East peace process is to open in Morocco in October, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday.

Mr. Peres announced the summit on the Middle East and North Africa — the first to bring public and private sectors together in the region — after holding talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher here.

"The next important occasion (in the Middle East) will be October 31, when an economic conference will take place in Casablanca in Morocco, chaired by King Hassan II and supported by president Boris Yeltsin of Russia and Bill Clinton of the United States," Mr. Peres said.

He said as many as 100 political leaders would join private business representatives for the two-day conference, which will end on Nov. 1.

"It will be the first time in the history of the Middle East that an organised economic effort supported both by governments and private enterprises, market economy and political thinking, will match together to open a new situation" in the region, Mr. Peres added.

Public and private sector representatives would discuss regional development and try to draw up joint projects in the realms of banking, tourism, water resources and financial markets, a U.S. official added.

Mr. Christopher, who arrived in the Middle East on Saturday for a new peace mission, said he and Mr. Peres "resolved we would make certain to try and keep in mind economic aspects of various relationships" in the region.

"The political steps forward of course are crucial, but agreements will only be cemented and effective when we have the economic aspect as well."

A senior U.S. official said the North Africa and Middle East Economic Summit, an initiative of the World Economic Forum, was "without precedent."

"This conference is designed to attract those desirous of making peace in the Middle East. Those who are not interested or trying to undermine the peace process are simply not going to be invited," the official said.

Mr. Christopher is hoping to nail down peace between Israel and Jordan and bring Syria closer to talks with the Jewish state during his third regional tour in as many months.

MAJALI MEETS OPPOSITION: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday meets with the secretaries-general of eight political parties (see stories on pages one and 12) (Petra photo)

# Southern Yemeni leader says dialogue should go on

CAIRO (Agencies) — Former South Yemeni Prime Minister Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas left Cairo for Damascus on Sunday and said a north-south dialogue should continue.

He told reporters at Cairo airport he was going to a meeting of Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) leaders on Monday to discuss the latest developments in a dialogue between the Sanaa government and those who led the unsuccessful secessionist movement in the south between May and July.

The Sanaa government wants Mr. Attas and other southern leaders extradited for trial and has said that a meeting in Geneva last month, attended by Mr. Attas, did not constitute talks with its defeated southern rivals.

Eight YSP members opened talks in Damascus on Saturday. Mohammad Abdo Shotfah, former Yemeni ambassador to Syria who was sacked by the Sanaa government, told Reuters the members would draw up an agenda for a bigger meeting to discuss the party's future plans after the two-month war in Yemen.

In Sanaa, President Ali Abdullah Saleh on Saturday asked the YSP to dismiss its secessionist leaders in what political sources said was a toughening of his attitude towards his southern foes.

In a speech at Ebb, in central Yemen, Mr. Saleh said YSP members should reorganise themselves. "If they are serious they should adopt a decision dismissing those who announced the separation declaration," he added.

Former Yemeni Vice-President and leader of the YSP Ali Salem Al Beidh declared a breakaway state on May 21. It collapsed when Sanaa's forces captured Aden, capital of the secessionist state, on July 7 after a two-month civil war. Mr. Beidh fled to Oman.

Mr. Beidh and 15 other secessionist leaders, mostly from the YSP, are on a wanted list for trial in Yemen on treason charges.

The Sanaa-based provisional leadership of the YSP on Tuesday condemned Mr. Beidh's move and "the secession declaration as a non-patriotic and non-constitutional act which is contrary to the party's programme."

But Mr. Saleh in his speech, reported by Sanaa Radio, was not apparently content with the condemnation.

He said: "We wished the YSP leadership inside the country had adopted the position either during the recent events (war) or after the end of these events."

One political source said: "Saleh is toughening his attitude and is trying to pressure YSP members at home to bring them to their knees."

Another source said that to dismiss the leadership according to the YSP procedural system, a party conference would have to be held and elect a central committee. This committee should in turn elect a politburo.

"Calling on the YSP leaders at home to dismiss secessionist leaders without following the party procedures means he (Saleh) is forcing them to have their backs against the wall," one source said.

Out of the YSP's 24 politburo members, there are six only in Sanaa. The rest are outside the country.

Yemen had been united since 1990 when the formerly Marxist and more secular South Yemen merged with the more traditional north.

"Those who are really unionists within the YSP have to define their attitude clearly and to dismiss from the party ranks those secessionist traitors," Mr. Saleh said.

He added that YSP membes who supported the secession or remained neutral during the war "have to prove to the people their loyalty and sincerity to ... the unity." He did not say how.

He urged Yemenis who went into exile when the war ended to return home quickly and take advantage of a general amnesty which expires in mid-August.

"As for those on the arrest warrant list, they can give themselves up and stand a fair trial. This is more honourable for them than sinking in the quagmire of plotting," he said.

# Sweden to help TCC expansion project

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) on Sunday signed an agreement with Swedtel, a firm affiliated with the Swedish telecommunications administration, under which Swedtel will help supervise and manage the corporation's expansion programme which involves 250,000 additional lines all over the Kingdom in the first phase.

The signing of the agreement takes the TCC programme one step further towards its goal of meeting up to 70 to 80 per cent of pending applications for new phone lines by 1996.

When the first phase of the TCC expansion programme is completed, one in every seven Jordanians will have a telephone line as opposed to the present one in every 10.

The agreement was signed by TCC Director-General Ahmad Al Nawawi, who noted that Swedtel had helped the corporation with consultancy services in the past.

Under the accord, Swedtel will assign 50 experts to Jordan and provide services to the TCC as part of a grant from the Swedish government to cover the costs of the first two years of the five-year TCC programme.

Mr. Nawawi told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, after the signing that the Swedish government would pay all expenses related to the services offered by Swedtel while the salaries of experts assigned to Jordan would be paid by the Swedish development agency.

The Jordanian government will only pay for the cost of the experts' stay in the Kingdom, he said.

Afram Jamil, director of the TCC programme, said Sweden had promised to pay the consultancy charges for the last three years of the programme.

Mr. Jamil told Petra that the government had secured financing for the $300 million expansion programme. A $200 million loan came from the World Bank, the European Bank for Investment (EIB), an arm of the European Union, the Japanese Eximbank, and the Jeddah-based Islamic Development Bank. The treasury will cover $60 million.

The five-year TCC expansion is the biggest programme undertaken by the corporation, which was forced to suspend all projects in 1989 when Jordan faced a severe economic crisis.

Officials say that because of the suspension, Jordan's telecommunication setup suffered badly since the field of telecommunications is an area which should be the first to incorporate advanced international technology on a regular basis and cannot afford to lag behind.

Experts also note that telecommunications projects are not designed and installed in a few months. Rather, they take a minimum of two years to be designed and built to suit the particular needs and existing structure of the concerned country or network.

Amendments to TCC legislation have allowed the corporation to grant concessions to private companies for "complimentary" services. A private company has the radio-paging concession, and another is expected soon to be given a concession for a cellular phone system, Jordan's first.

However, the TCC remains the sole authority in Jordan as far as telephone, telex and facsimile services are concerned.

# Blast in Nabatiyeh kills 3

NABATIYEH (AP) — An explosion ripped through this South Lebanon market town Sunday and police said two people were killed and seven wounded, including two small sisters.

Police initially said the explosion was caused by a bomb that blew up a tractor-trailer. Then police and army investigators at the scene said detonators placed in a box of dynamite next to a drilling compressor towed by the tractor apparently exploded accidentally.

The explosion came amid mounting tensions in South Lebanon between guerrillas and Israeli forces as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived in the Middle East to promote peace.

Upsurges of violence has become customary in South Lebanon, the only active Arab-Israeli war front, whenever Middle East peace efforts gather momentum.

Military sappers sifted through the wreckage Sunday afternoon looking for clues that might give them information about the explosion. They were aided by heavily armed troops and policemen who kept onlookers away.

Dynamite is usually used in rock domolition at construction sites and the government has banned transport of dynamite boxes next to compressors, which heat up after usage. But violations long have been abundant.

The explosion occurred at 10:20 a.m. (0720 GMT) as the tractor-trailer was negotiating a road bend in front of the main police station at Nabatiyeh's Hussainiyeh Square.

Police identified the dead as the driver and a passenger on the tractor-trailer.

Among the wounded were four members of a family who were walking near the police station when the blast occurred. They included three-year-old Zahra Daoud, her four-month-old sister, Batoul, and their parents, police and hospital officials.

In addition, two officers at the police station suffered car injuries from the sound of the blast, comrades at the scene said.

Broken glass from the three-storey police station littered the bloodstained street where six cars lay badly damaged. Mangled telephone and power cables hung limply over the wreckage.

A blood-splattered women's shoe and pieces of human flesh were scattered on the square, turned slippery by diesel and gasoline that leaked from damaged vehicles.

Hassan Koteish suffered a minor head injury and his white Mercedes Benz was banged up and blackened by shoot.

"Another car was tossed into the side of mine from the impact of the explosion. I jumped out and rushed to hospital, bleeding from the head," Mr. Koteish recalled later at the site, his forehead bandaged and white shirt sprayed with blood and fuel stains.

At the south hospital, two blocks away, Mona Ayoub stood at the doorstep nursing her swollen left arm while waiting for X-ray results. Her right arm was bandaged at the wrist.

She had been driving with her mother in their Oldsmobile behind the tractor-trailer when the explosion occurred.

"I panicked, abandoned the car and fled into the police station after the vehicle caught fire," said the woman in her 20s, her hair singed from the flame.

Her mother, Ibtihaj, had glass splinters in her eyes and was transferred to hospital in Sidon, provincial capital of the south about half an hour's drive away.

Nabatiyeh, a town of 30,000 inhabitants, is surrounded from three sides by hilltop outposts of Israeli troops protecting an enclave Israel occupies as a "security zone" to shield its territories from cross-border guerrilla raids.

On Saturday, two Israeli soldiers were killed and three wounded in a Hizbollah ambush in the "security zone," triggering heavy Israeli artillery bombardment of villages facing the enclave. Hizbollah guerrillas also fired several Katyusha rockets into northern Israel.

Hizbollah said it carried out Saturday's attack to avenge Israel's air raid Thursday on Deir Al Zahrani.

## Christopher holds talks in Syria

(Continued from page 1)

parties who might be effective in bringing those attacks under control. I've done that again in this situation," Mr. Christopher said. "Incidents like those that have happened in the last few days only underscore the need for a peaceful resolution of these problems."

Israel says Syria, the main powerbroker in Lebanon, could curb attacks by Hizbollah guerrillas from Lebanon.

Hizbollah killed two Israeli soldiers in an ambush on Saturday and fired rockets into Israel wounding three children.

The Hizbollah attacks followed an Israeli air raid into Lebanon on Thursday that killed eight Lebanese civilians. Israel said the deaths were caused by a bomb that strayed off course.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres vowed Sunday that Israel will keep retaliating against rocket attacks, saying after a meeting with Mr. Christopher that "we aren't asked to stop it or change it."

Mr. Christopher publicly urged all sides, including Israel, to exercise restraint. "My main aim is to prevent this round of violence from cycling and causing damage to the peace process," he said.

Despite Christopher's appeal, a senior U.S. official said "the Israelis will respond as circumstances on the ground warrant." The official, insisting on anonymity, added: "The issue is not the United States telling Israel how to conduct its policy.

"We salute the energies of the secretary not to let the momentum for peace to subside," Mr. Peres told reporters in Israel before Mr. Christopher left.

"We have revealed to the secretary our own feelings and judgment expressing our expectations that the Syrians have a great deal to say in the Lebanon developments," he said.

"We also support the attempt which is being today conducted by the secretary to have a breakthrough in our relations with the Syrians," he added.

Syria, which has some 35,000 troops in Lebanon, says Lebanese resistance against Israeli occupation troops in the south can only end when Israel pulls out of the area.

It said on Sunday that Israel was trying to sabotage Mr. Christopher's mediation efforts with its attacks on Lebanon.

"By escalating the situation in South Lebanon Israel is trying to divert Christopher's tour from its objectives and to keep the secretary busy handling the situation in the south rather than concentrating on how to push forward the peace process," the government newspaper, Tishreen, said.

## 'Araba Crossing opens today'

(Continued from page 1)

Aqaba. But the formal schedule of their visit did not include a visit to Petra.

Officials said the Kingdom remained far from signing a peace accord with Israel and would only be able to consider such a settlement once issues related to territorial and water rights are resolved.

"Only then we can even think of a peace treaty," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said.

On Tuesday, Jordanian and Israeli negotiators open "continuous" talks at an Israeli hotel on the shores of the Dead Sea on the territorial and water disputes.

Mr. Rabin Sunday signed a decree establishing the crossing point in the south, government officials said.

In the Israeli resort of Eilat a sign in Hebrew, English and French saying "Welcome to the Araba crossing point" has replaced one which said: "Border. No Crossing."

A bank has already established a branch near the border and a refreshments bar with a sign in Hebrew saying: "Peace knows no borders."

The crossing will only be open four days a week, and will stay closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, the officials said. Opening hours will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vehicles registered in Israel or Jordan will not be allowed through the crossing. Visitors travelling by bus from Eilat will transfer to Jordanian buses to reach Aqaba, and vice versa.

In a statement to Sawt Al Arab Radio, Minister of Information Jawad Anani Sunday said negotiations between Jordan and Israel had gone beyond for bargaining stage to a more advanced stage.

Dr. Anani said the bilateral negotiations that resume Tuesday would focus on border delineation and seek to reach an agreement on Jordan's share of the Jordan River and Yarmouk River through the various committees that were set up for this prupose.

"The two issues concerning refugees and progress on other Arab tracks are still unsettled and stand in the way of a Jordanian-Israeli comprehensive peace agreement," he said.

The minister saw that the public in Jordan is generally in support of the latest developments on the Jordanian track.

"There is some opposition," he said, "but it is characterised by rationality and tries to see matters from a strategic point of view."

## Aqaba hosts Jordan-Israel summit

(Continued from page 1)

Oslo agreement between Palestinians and Israel, followed by the Cairo agreement in May, made it impossible for Jordan to remain "outside the game" as it remained behind the Palestinians.

With the Madrid formula for negotiations with Israel redundant, Jordan fell back to its own first agreement with Israel, the common agenda signed in Washington in September of last year.

In that agenda, Jordan still kept its commitment to a "comprehensive peace" settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict. But it gained more freedom to negotiate the issues that are of direct concern to it, especially that the umbrella it had provided for the Palestinians at the beginning of negotiations also became unnecessary.

"What we are doing now is negotiating the terms of the common agenda," a senior negotiator told the Jordan Times this week.

With that shift in negotiating strategy came fundamental changes to Jordan's handling of its talks with Israel. The more obvious shift was in the acceleration of steps in the process of normalising relations with Israel and more subtly, delaying the discussion of the issue of refugees to make it more parallel to talks in the multilateral negotiations.

The first indication of the change in the Kingdom's policy towards Israel was when officials began pointing to Jordan's readiness to implement sub-agreements with Israel as soon as they were reached.

"What people are now describing as normalisation is actually the implementation of sub-agreements," one well-placed politician told the Jordan Times.

"The Washington Declaration summed up these agreements and paved the road for the accelerated steps by Jordan over the past two weeks," he added.

And by today, most of those sub-agreements would have been implemented.

analysts point out, Jordan was always resisting U.S. and Israeli pressure to "go through the motions" before actually resolving the core conflict, a pressure that the Kingdom had repeatedly resisted when it felt it was supported by an Arab consensus to stand fast.

"But the Oslo agreement changed all that," a seasoned analyst said.

When the Palestinian leadership conducted its own secret talks with Israel in Oslo, minimising the value of the Washington bilateral talks, "it set the tone for a new policy towards negotiating with Israel."

Jordan, analysts believe, became under more pressure to raise the level of its negotiators with Israel if only to follow the suit of the Palestinians who appeared to have fled the Madrid formula which initially brought Arabs to the negotiating table with Israel.

In fact, analysts say, the

## Jordan-Israel phone lines opened

(Continued from page 1)

phone lines were opened. The opening came as a surprise to many since earlier indications were that the lines would go operational on Monday along with the opening of an Aqaba-Eilat crossing in the south.

It was also announced in Israel that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was expected to make the first call from Jordan to Israel. There was no immediate explanation of the changed plans.

Dozens of calls came to Amman residents from relatives living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip shortly after the King's conversation with Mr. Weizman. The line was very clear, devoid of the distortions that often plague international lines.

With the scheduled launching of the crossing in the south in the context of cooperation in tourism, the opening of the telephone line was the latest tangible step in implementation of the Washington Declaration signed by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Linking the power grids of the two countries so that each could help the other in times of peak-load demands is another measure envisaged in the declaration, but that move is expected to take some time, experts said.

Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irsheidat said meanwhile that Israel had pumped in four million cubic metres of water to Jordanian territory starting last week.

The Israeli gesture was described as a "positive step in the right direction" by Information Minister Jawad Al Anani on Saturday, obviously in an implicit reference to the outstanding territorial and water disputes between Jordan and Israel.

These problems have to be settled along with the thorny issue of Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom before a peace treaty could be considered with the Jewish state, the minister said.

After Sunday's call finished, Mr. Weizman himself tempered Israeli euphoria, reminding journalists that despite the good feelings about the phone call, there was no peace yet.

"At some stage we have to reach normalisation with King Hussein so that every conversation and visit will not create such great excitement," Mr. Weizman said.

## Jordan moving with clear goal — Majali

(Continued from page 1)

which guarantee freedom of expression to all citizens."

"The quiet and balanced dialogue through the available channels, included the licensed newspapers of the political parties, allow all to express their views freely," Dr. Majali said.

The party leaders expressed their thanks to Dr. Majali for meeting with them on short notice in response to their request, Petra said.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi, Interior Minister Salameh Hammad and Minister of State Abdullah Jazi.

The parties represented at the meeting were the Jordan Arab Socialist Party, the Islamic Action Front, the Jordan Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordan Democratic People's Party, the Jordan Communist Party and the Jordan Arab Democratic Party and the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Confronting Concessions and Normalisation of Relations with Israel.

## Aqaba residents nonplussed

(Continued from page 1)

But the economic consideration will win over the other two. And it is not difficult to see why. The shop is stocked to the hilt. But except for some passersby who peeped to ask whether he had any smuggled cigarettes, hardly anyone came inside.

"We have become pragmatists," a customer at a nearby barbershop said.

Jamal, a 29-year-old engineer, believes that everyone is "all mixed up and confused." He says that during the five years of democratisation "many of us have come to feel that the country's interest is to stay away from demonstrations."

A regular mosque goer, he said the democratisation process had instilled a kind of maturity towards political developments.

"Even though I know that it is wrong to trust the Jews and that as long as Arab territories are occupied it is my Muslim duty to fight the enemy, I also know that I must feel responsible towards this country."

"So for now we will watch and see," he said.

Nayef, a middle-aged souvenir shop owner, is not going to waste time watching. "This is a different kind of war... now it is a war of the economies."

"If we do not use our brains and energy we will be eaten up by this horrible ghoul," he said in reference to Israel.

But perhaps the overriding sentiment among strollers through this market, was expressed by Eissa, a father of 14. He reflected the overall sentiment best.

Leaving philosophy to the philosophers, the bedouin said he was "happy that peace was coming to our country."

"It is important to have peace," the dark-skinned thin man declared as he sat at the barber shop. But when asked whether he was prepared for the arrival of Mr. Rabin in Aqaba, he said: "No, I don't think so."

But true to his bedouin tradition, he says he will stick to an old saying of the desert dwellers: "You should have dinner with a Christian and sleep in a Jewish home."

# Kuwaiti parliament approves 94/95 budget with $5.9b deficit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's parliament Saturday approved a 1994/95 budget that entails a hefty rise of around 20 per cent in the deficit but provides for higher public service charges on industry.

Welfare state entitlements for Kuwaitis such as free health and education and a host of social benefits went untouched by members of parliament searching for ways to cut a Gulf war-inflated shortfall.

The opposition-dominated assembly approved a gross deficit of 1.766 billion dinars ($5.9 billion), an 18 per cent rise from a 1993/94 gross shortfall originally projected at 1.494 billion dinars ($5 billion).

The net shortfall will be 1.502 billion dinars ($5 bilion), a 23 per cent rise on the originally projected 1993/94 net deficit of 1.223 billion ($4.1 billion).

A 1976 law requires ministers to transfer 10 per cent of state revenue to an investment fund designed to help finance the government when oil runs out over a century from now.

The opposition-dominated assembly said the shortfall would be covered from state reserves.

Investment officials say that in practice the deficit is financed by a mixture of domestic borrowing, allocations from state investment income and state foreign investment sales. State agencies also resort to spending delays and postponement.

The assembly set state spending at 4.14 billion dinars ($13.8 billion), an 11 per cent increase on 1993/94 spending originally planned at 3.937 billion ($13.2 billion).

It projected revenue at 2.637 billion dinars ($8.8 billion), a fall of 6.5 per cent from 1993/94 revenue originally projected at 2.713 billion dinars ($9.1 billion).

The assembly, some of whose members were absent for the vote, approved the budget bill 36-0 with no abstentions. The budget now goes to the emir for enactment.

Most of the rise in the deficit is due to inclusion in the budget for the first time of hitherto secret allocations for arms purchases. Excluding the arms procurement allocations, which amount to at least 450 million dinars ($1.51 billion), would produce a 14 per cent fall in the net deficit.

Gulf war-related expenses, including repairing damaged oilfields, cost Kuwait tens of billions of dollars and more than halved its once large foreign investment empire.

A state economic committee said recently that the budget deficit, already running at a fifth of gross domestic product, would grow by almost 50 per cent by the year 2000 unless the system of generous state subsidies was reformed.

The government initially proposed 1994/95 spending of 4.39 billion ($14.7 billion) and projected revenue of 2.537 billion dinars ($8.5 billion), making a net deficit of 1.853 billion dinars ($6.2 billion).

But parliament's financial and economic affairs committee persuaded the government to cut 250 million dinars ($839 million) from state expenditure mainly by trimming miscellaneous expenditure by 178 million dinars ($596 million) and reducing construction allocations by 60 million ($201 million).

They also agreed to increase revenues by 100 million dinars ($335 million) by levying new custom fees and increasing electricity, transportation and communication service charges, mainly on industrial companies.

For example, factories in Kuwait, currently charged one fils per kilowatt hour, will be charged two fils per kilowatt hour. But only those firms which are making profits and do not need government support will have to pay the higher cost.

There are 1000 fils to one dinar, which is worth $3.35.

Finance Minister Nasser Al Rodhan, in a statement to the House last month, proposed levying income tax for the first on Kuwaitis and expatriates in the medium to long term.

Sheikh Rodhan also suggested levying company tax — now applied only on foreign concerns — on Kuwaiti firms as well as imposing a tax on sales and fees for services currently free of charge.

No mention was made of these ideas in the budget bill.

In another action, Kuwait's parliament, shielding small borrowers from possible legal actiion by the government, has extended a deadline for debtors to arrange settlement under a plan to solve the country's thorniest economic problem.

The assembly late Saturday approved a measure extending to Oct. 31 a deadline for 2,555 debtors to arrange settlement of the 377 million dinars ($1.26 billion) they owe.

The parliament also approved a measure enabling the debtors, in certain circumstances, to register for settlement through a power of attorney.

Deputy Adnan Abdul Samad told Reuters the debtors included many people who owed relatively small amounts of money and provided they met the new deadline they would now be able to benefit from the generous terms of the difficult debt settlement programme.

The 2,555 had failed to meet a March 31 deadline to agree a repayment schedule. Their entire debt immediately fell due and the state may petition the courts to declare them bankrupt.

Bankers said many simply were unaware of the programme's existence and others had died since the debt was incurred — some of it as long as 12 years ago. Others include some who may have thought mistakenly their debt was forgiven in a government write-off of Kuwaitis' consumer debt after the Gulf war.

The programme is an attempt to settle at least 5.7 billion dinars ($19 billion) in bad debt that stems partly from the 1982 crash of a kerbside stock exchange and partly from commercial losses aggravated by Iraq's 1990-91 occupation.

In all 9,546 corporate and individual debtors are involved, including many individual wealthy merchants and their firms.

Commercial banks, acting on behalf of the government, last week sent papers to the attorney general's office in preparation for legal action against the defaulting borrowers.

Bankers have said 3,359 debtors failed to meet the March deadline. There was no immediate explanation for the discrepancy between their figure and parliament's figure for the debtors.

Accounts of how much the defaulters owe in total have ranged in recent months from 209 million dinars ($700 million) to 900 million dinars ($3.0 billion).

The government in 1992 bought the banks' portfolios of bad debts with government bonds under a law aimed at solving a problem that has cast a pall over the economy since 1982.

The commercial banks now have the job of recovering the money on behalf of the government.

The successful operation of the programme would boost a banking system that was once one of the Gulf's most buoyant but which is now stagnant because of the bad debts, capital flight and worries about Iraq.

Most debtors who met the deadline opted for cash settlement, which provides generous forgiveness of up to 75 per cent, rather than a 12-year rescheduling option, which has stricter terms.

# Arab Gulf states lag behind in heavy industry

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Wealthy Arab Gulf states have made headway in an industrialisation drive to lessen reliance on their oil wealth but still lag behind in heavy products, an official report has said.

From $4.1 billion in 1975, industrial investment in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) surged to $40.9 billion in 1993 and the gross domestic product in the sector jumped from 4.6 per cent to 9.4 per cent, the report by the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultancy (GOIC) said.

But the bulk of investments covered light products such as chemicals, food, clothes, metals, home appliances, paper, cement and small equipment.

Chemicals accounted for nearly half the industrial capital receiving $19.7 billion, while around $3.4 billion were invested in metal industries and $4.3 billion in food, according to the report, published in United Arab Emirates (UAE) newspapers.

The figures did not include investments in petrochemicals, estimated at nearly $18 billion. Most of products in this sector are exported to Japan and the European Union among others.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the UAE — have been trying to diversify their oil-reliant economies by building up an industrial base since sectors such as tourism and agriculture are relatively small due to their arid desert land.

Industrialisation gained momentum in the mid-1980s when oil prices began to decline and created large deficits in Gulf budgets.

GCC states have sought technology from industrial countries to set up projects for heavy products with little success as the countries have argued the Gulf market is relatively small and investment laws prevent them from having full ownership in industrial ventures.

As a result, industrial exports by GCC nations have remained as low as $8 billion a year compared with exports of crude oil, gas and petrochemicals of more than $70 billion.

The Doha-based GOIC, which advises on government industrial policies in the GCC, said nearly half the investments in the sector were based in Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter.

# UAE turns budget deficit into surplus

ABU DHABI (AFP) — A deficit in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) federal budget turned into an actual surplus in 1993 although defence spending remained as high as half the toal allocations, the central bank has said.

The deficit, which had been projected at $470 million in 1993, turned into a surplus of 52.8 million dirhams ($14.38 million) at the end of the year, the bank said in its annual report for 1993.

The report attributed this to a sharp cut in actual expenditure to 15.4 billion dirhams ($4.19 billion) from a projected 17.6 billion dirhams ($4.79 billion dollars).

The surplus occurred despite a steep decline in revenues to around $4.138 billion from a projected $4.32 billion.

In 1992, a projected deficit of $381 million also turned into a surplus of $569 million, according to the report.

"The UAE is one of the few Arab states to record surpluses in its budgets due to cuts in actual spending," a UAE banker told AFP.

"This has enabled it to avert borrowing from world markets or issuing bonds.

# Mubarak opposes currency devaluation

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, in his first intervention in a disagreement between his government and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), said Saturday he opposed devaluing the Egyptian pound.

The IMF and a team of Egyptian ministers discussed devaluation during 10 days of talks in Washington last month but did not come to any agreement.

The IMF says Egypt needs to reconsider its policy of maintaining the pound at no more than 3.40 to the dollar.

The government says devaluation would lead to inflation, damage confidence in the economy and add little to exports.

Mr. Mubarak, speaking to members of the ruling National Democratic Party in the coastal city of Alexandria, said:

"Studies on the possibility of devaluing the pound showed that it would impact negatively and would have effects which do not agree with our economic interests. So we refused to discuss this subject." He was quoted by all government newspapers.

Mr. Mubarak said the government would leave the pound to the forces of supply and demand but did not elaborate.

The Central Bank of Egypt intervened heavily to support the pound about 10 days ago.

# Labour unrest poses threat to growth in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — South Africa's continuing labour woes will put a damper on economic growth, causing a budget shortfall that could threaten the new government's reconstruction plan, economists said Sunday.

Outgoing finance minister Derek Keys, backed by most economists, had confidently predicted that South Africa's economy would grow by between three and four per cent in 1994.

But a series of strikes, affecting the automobile, retail and other major industries, has caused economists to drop their growth estimate to 2.5 per cent.

About 25,000 auto workers went on strike last Monday, costing South Africa's second-largest manufacturing industry an estimated 100 million rand ($27.5 million) per day.

The auto strike followed a bitter three-week action by some 30,000 workers at major retailer Pick 'n Pay that at times turned violent with clashes between picketers and police.

The Pick 'n Pay strike was resolved Wednesday, averting a general strike in the industrial heartland of Johannesburg that had been called by the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), the country's largest union federation.

Ben van Rensburg, economist at the South African Chamber of Business (SACOB), the country's major employer body, believes the current wave of strikes could undermine the country's fledgling economy recovery and cause higher unemployment.

"Strike-related violence and conflict have had a negative impact on South Africa's image as an investment destination, and hence our longer-term growth potential," Mr. Van Rensburg said.

SACOB, and major banks Standard and ABSA, have downgraded their growth estimate to 2.5 per cent, while the University of South Africa's Bureau for Market Research estimates only 2.2 per cent growth for 1994, the Sunday Times newspaper reported.

The Bureau said economic growth would only come if capital can be attracted to South Africa, but the strikes were "frightening investors away and delaying the economic recovery."

The effect of the lower growth rate would be to significantly lower tax revenue collected by the government, causing a larger than expected budget deficit.

Economists warn that if the government does experience a revenue shortfall, it will impact on President Nelson Mandela's ability to deliver on the promises in his ambitious Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

The RDP aims to address apartheid backlogs by building houses, providing jobs and fostering more black participation in the white-dominated economy.

Mr. Mandela has appealed to both labour and business to work out their wage settlements amicably, without disrupting the economy.

But COSATU unions have been demanding wage increases well above the prevailing 7.5 per cent annualised inflation rate, citing poor increases during three years of recession.

Analysts also believe workers feel they should be given a larger slice of the economic cake following the April all-race elections that ushered in democracy.

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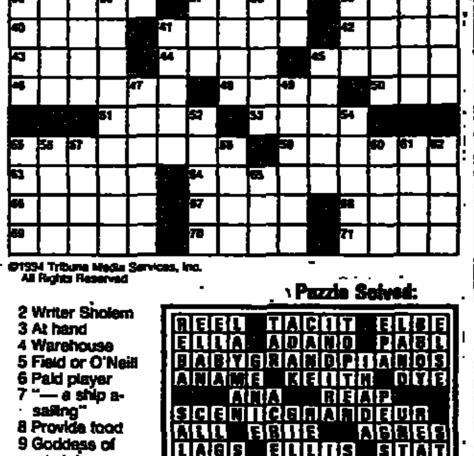
## THE Daily Crossword by C.F. Murray



ACROSS
1 Columbus' sighting
5 Cecil B. DeMille forte
9 Peaks
14 Words of understanding
15 Major sky attraction
16 Overdone
17 Fall guy's kin
19 Pertaining to an hour
20 Royal seat
21 Lycanthrope
23 Think —
25 Flees
26 Weapon of war, briefly
29 Plug for a wound
31 Summer hat
35 "There is nothing like —"
37 Lighten up
39 Verve
40 "— and the Swan" (Yeats)
41 Flat finish
42 Exhausting hike
43 Wingtike
44 — fixe
45 Gawk
46 Humble (oneself)
48 — avis
50 Nothing
51 Skidded
53 Vanish gradually
55 "Life With Father" star
59 Omits a syllable
63 Birch kin
64 Type of butter?
66 Paine's creed
67 Very good review
68 Raison d'—
69 Certain damages
70 Surrounded by
71 What's left

DOWN
1 Catalogue
2 Writer Sholem
3 At hand
4 Warehouse
5 Field or O'Neill
6 Paid player
7 "— a ship a-sailing"
8 Provide food
9 Goddess of wisdom
10 Look-out perch
11 Artist Joan
12 List extender
13 Ego
18 Growing out
22 Delhi coin
24 Work dough
26 Side dish
27 Designer Simpson
28 Title
30 Spud
32 Part of EAP
33 New Zealand native
34 Backer
36 Hoax
38 To be angry
41 Jot
45 Burst forth
47 Morning sounds
49 Walked unsteadily
52 Actress Winger
54 Big cat
55 Cheryl of films
56 Robert —
57 Aesir chief
58 Thailand, once
60 Be very loving
61 Corn units
62 Printing term
65 56

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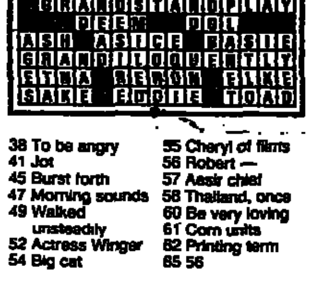
Puzzle Solved:



INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY AND PROJECT DESIGN OF
DISI-MUDAWWARA/AMMAN WATER PROJECT
INVITATION NO. 54/94/DSC

The **Disi Special Committee in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan** invites highly qualified and experienced international consulting firms in association with **Class A "Water, Electro-Mechanical, Buildings, and Roads"** Jordanian consultant(s), to submit their technical and financial offers for a technical and economic feasibility study and project design of the water conveyance system including (wellfields, pipelines, reservoirs, pumping stations and associated works) from Disi-Mudawwara area to the city of Amman on the basis of the Terms of Reference. International consultants may initially choose to submit their offers without local association. However, the winning international consultant is obligated and therefore requested, before signature of the agreement, to present the above classified local associate(s) for approval by the Disi Special Committee. It is anticipated that the local technical input shall not exceed 35%.

The Project consists of conveying over a length of at least 340 km 80 million cubic metres per annum at a total head of 800 metres. It is intended that the Project will be presented to bilateral or international agencies for financing the construction contract or invite bids for private sector financed BOT/BOO contract.

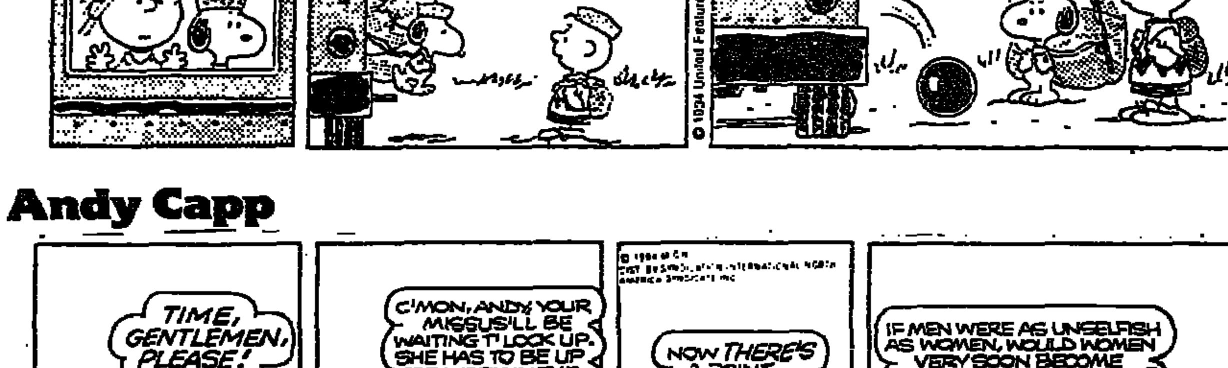
Terms of reference are available against a written application and the payment of a non-refundable fee of **JD 1,000** equivalent to **US$1,500** from the Tenders Division at the Water Authority Headquarters, P.O.Box 2412, Tel. (+) 962 6 680 100, Fax. (+) 692 6 679 143, Amman, Jordan.

International consultants can make their own arrangements with international air courier to pay and collect on their behalf the said Terms of Reference.

Offers are due not later than **1300 hours Jordan local time on Saturday 15 October 1994**, to the Office of the Secretary General of the Water Authority/Tenders Division.

ENG. KOUSSAI A. QUTEISHAT
CHAIRMAN OF THE DISI SPECIAL TENDERING COMMITTEE
SECRETARY GENERAL
WATER AUTHORITY OF JORDAN

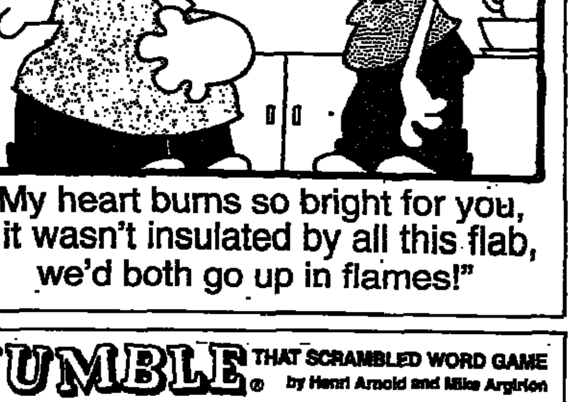
## Peanuts




## Andy Capp

## Mutt'n'Jeff

## THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"My heart burns so bright for you, if it wasn't insulated by all this flab, we'd both go up in flames!"

## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

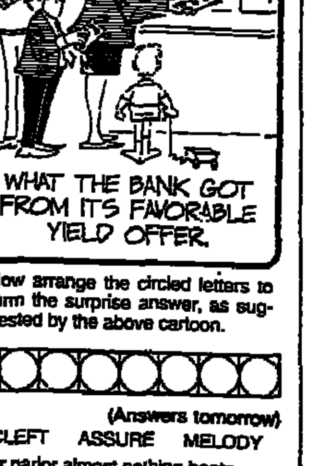
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GINTY

HAMER

MYNITE

PERUSH




Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CHUTE CLEFT ASSURE MELODY
Answer: For the poker parlor almost nothing beats this —A FULL HOUSE

# Business & Finance



**Financial Markets** — **Jordan Times** in co-operation with **Cairo Amman Bank**

## Foreign Exchange Market Summary (August 1 — August 5, 1994)

AMMAN — The dollar ended little changed at the end of last week, from its closing levels of the previous week.

The U.S. unit rose against other major currencies Monday, as the market finally tilted towards a perception that the U.S. administration no longer wished to see a lower dollar as means of quelling Japanese imports, in view of the negative influence it has had on U.S. financial markets. This happened despite another set-back in the U.S.-Japan trade talks, after the Japnese failed to open their markets to some U.S. products ahead of the July 31st deadline set for the implementation of U.S. trade sanctions.

On the other hand, the dollar gained ground against sterling, as the latter declined when expectations of a probable monetary tightening in the U.K. failed to materialise.

The dollar continued its rise against the mark and yen Tuesday. It penetrated the 100 yen level, on continued perception that the dollar/yen rate is no longer a function of developments in the U.S.-Japan trade talks, at least for the time being. Meanwhile, the dollar's rise against the yen triggered its rise against the mark and other European currencies.

The U.S. unit witnesed a relapse Wednesday, however, on concern over the outcome of the U.S. employment report due at the end of the week. It also lost ground on dollar sales for marks by a major U.S. bank.

The dollar appreciated against other major currencies Thursday, in view of comments by Robert Parry, President of the Federal Reserve (Fed) Bank of San Francisco. Mr. Parry said that a forward looking monetary policy can help the Fed avoid the unstable policy it followed during the 70's, and will achieve a lasting economic expansion. Mr. Parry, a member of the FOMC, added that a Fed study revealed that an unemployment level below six per cent in the U.S. can be considered inflationary, while non-inflationary full employment can be achieved at an unemployment level of 6.25 per cent.

Many market participants took Mr. Parry's comments as an indication that the Fed will raise the federal rates on its next scheduled FOMC meeting on 16/8/1994. Meanwhile, the dollar ignored a later remark by Mr. Parry, in which he said that he expects the U.S. economy to witness slower growth during the second half of 1994.

The dollar retreated against other major currencies Friday, on fears of inflationary pressures in the U.S. after the release of the U.S. employment report. The dollar also lost ground on declining U.S. bond prices, which fell after the release of the employment reports as well.

The U.S. unit, thus ended the week at $1.5797 marks, 100.20 yen and at $1.5415 to the pound sterling.

**New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar**

| Currency | 29/7/94 Close | 5/8/94 Close | Percent Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sterling Pound* | 1.5430 | 1.5415 | (0.10)% |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.5829 | 1.5797 | 0.20 % |
| Swiss Franc | 1.3395 | 1.3335 | 0.45 % |
| French Franc | 5.4095 | 5.4090 | 0.01 % |
| Japanese Yen | 99.95 | 100.20 | (0.25)% |

* USD Per STG

**Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin**

Date: 7/8/1994

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|---|---|---|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.6940 | 0.6960 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.0687 | 1.0740 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.4395 | 0.4417 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.5199 | 0.5225 |
| French Franc | 0.1282 | 0.1288 |
| Japanese Yen* | 0.6915 | 0.6950 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.3912 | 0.3932 |
| Swedish Krona | ****** | ****** |
| Italian Lira* | 0.0440 | 0.0442 |
| Belgian Franc | ****** | ****** |

* Per 100

**AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET**

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TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 07/08/1994

| COMPANY'S NAME | TRADED VOLUME JD | PREV. CLOSING PRICE | OPENING PRICE | CLOSING PRICE |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ARAB BANK | 48,100 | 185.000 | 185.000 | 185.000 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL BANK | 38,941 | 4.450 | 4.500 | 4.490 |
| BANK OF JORDAN | 2,968 | 4.150 | 4.150 | 4.150 |
| MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK. | 29,020 | 2.190 | 2.180 | 2.190 |
| INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK | 2,187 | 2.950 | 2.980 | 2.960 |
| THE HOUSING BANK | 5,250 | 5.270 | 5.250 | 5.250 |
| JORDAN KUWAIT BANK | 22,164 | 3.050 | 3.050 | 3.060 |
| JORDAN GULF BANK | 19,441 | 1.890 | 1.870 | 1.870 |
| JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK | 10,946 | 3.970 | 3.960 | 3.950 |
| UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT | 11,036 | 5.250 | 5.300 | 5.150 |
| BUSINESS BANK | 13,660 | 3.900 | 3.800 | 3.860 |
| JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK | 1,425 | 9.700 | 9.500 | 9.500 |
| ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT | 43,179 | 1.830 | 1.820 | 1.830 |
| ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN | 630 | 4.200 | 4.200 | 4.200 |
| PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK. | 116,609 | 2.290 | 2.280 | 2.280 |
| JORDAN INSURANCE | 18,250 | 3.650 | 3.650 | 3.650 |
| JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE | 1,440 | 2.900 | 2.880 | 2.880 |
| JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER | 11,252 | 1.790 | 1.780 | 1.780 |
| JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES | 137,221 | 3.190 | 3.250 | 3.200 |
| NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES | 6,760 | 2.960 | 2.920 | 2.900 |
| REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 7,405 | 1.400 | 1.350 | 1.350 |
| JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT | 4,319 | 0.890 | 0.910 | 0.930 |
| JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER | 300 | 1.200 | 1.200 | 1.200 |
| MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE | 1,518 | 0.910 | 0.920 | 0.920 |
| JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I | 52,529 | 12.390 | 13.000 | 13.010 |
| UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE HOTELS | 57,110 | 2.240 | 2.220 | 2.240 |
| ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION | 10,588 | 3.880 | 3.850 | 3.850 |
| JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING | 7,288 | 1.410 | 1.420 | 1.480 |
| ATTANQEEB CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING | 1,490 | 1.490 | 1.490 | 1.490 |
| THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES | 133,130 | 2.870 | 2.900 | 2.900 |
| JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY | 14,514 | 10.380 | 10.360 | 10.370 |
| THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL | 3,175 | 6.300 | 6.350 | 6.350 |
| ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING | 12,117 | 7.380 | 7.310 | 7.370 |
| JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES | 11,682 | 5.860 | 5.900 | 5.900 |
| THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING | 3,487 | 3.180 | 3.170 | 3.170 |
| ARAB CHEMICAL DETERGENTS INDUSTRIES | 858 | 17.150 | 17.150 | 17.150 |
| RAFIA INDUSTRIES | 4,765 | 2.800 | 2.810 | 2.800 |
| ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE | 5,929 | 1.360 | 1.350 | 1.370 |
| ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY | 4,200 | 8.400 | 8.400 | 8.400 |
| LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 63,188 | 1.110 | 1.110 | 1.100 |
| NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY | 35,228 | 4.600 | 4.650 | 4.650 |
| JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES | 6,641 | 1.930 | 1.910 | 1.930 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO | 13,362 | 0.930 | 0.930 | 0.920 |
| NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING | 1,650 | 6.560 | 6.600 | 6.600 |
| JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS | 3,609 | 2.850 | 2.850 | 2.810 |
| ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS | 4,694 | 3.050 | 3.030 | 3.030 |
| UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES | 34,801 | 4.830 | 4.790 | 4.810 |
| JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO. | 66,346 | 2.890 | 2.970 | 2.920 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 1,106,384 | | | |

NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET : 294005
TRADED VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET : JD 494521

# Oman and Bahrain in final stage to link stock markets

ABU DHABI (R) — Bahrain and Oman are in the final stages of linking their stock markets in the first such move by Arab Gulf states, officials have said.

Fawzi Behzad, director general of the Bahrian Stock Exchange, said a joint committee would meet this month to finalise details on cross-listing shares on the two exchanges.

"We want to build a bridge from Manama. "We want to work out dual listing as well as ease dual investment ... before the end of the year."

The two exchanges have a combined capital of about $6.0 billion for about 120 publicly-traded companies.

Bahrain and Oman signed an agreement in 1992 to cross-list shares before the end of 1994 in the first such deal between Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

Mr. Behzad said one proposal would be for Bahrain investors to place orders through brokers in Bahrain, who would then execute the trade through Omani brokers.

"It will encourage trading because it will save on costs," he said. "Cross-listing will be voluntary for companies. But we are opening the door for them and hope they will take advantage of this new move."

Muscat Securities Exchange Director Mahmoud Jarwani said that Oman's council of ministers has so far approved applications from two Bahraini companies to be listed in Oman.

Both countries are slowly opening their doors to foreign participation. Oman last month started listing a joint investment fund with the United Arab Emirates and in May launched its first mutual fund, Oryk, to include foreigners.

The Oryx fund is listed in Muscat and London exchanges. Oman is studying setting up a similar fund with a Japanese company.

Mr. Behzad in July approved a rule to allow foreigners who have resided in Bahrain for one year to trade on its stock exchange.

"This is the first week that foreigners living in Bahrain are trading. My understanding is that many inquiries about the status of companies have been placed," he said.

Brokers said it was to early to provide figures but one said foreigners have executed trades in past five days.

They said they hoped foreigners would give a boost to Bahrain's stock market where the index has fallen to 1,597 at the end of July from 1,928 at the beginning of the year.

They attributed the slow market to a liquidity shortage, sluggish summer trading, and higher interest rates.

## Morocco okays $518m new projects

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan government approved industrial investment projects worth 4,645 million dirhams ($518 million) in the first half, a 24 per cent increase over the same period of 1993, an official source has said.

The 1,903 approved projects benefit from state incentives such as tax waivers, cheap factory sites and credits.

Private projects make up 97.3 per cent of total investments, the state having gradually withdrawn from the industrial investment sector in favour of private enterprise.

Investments in the textile and leather sector rose by 23 per cent, chemicals 70 per cent, metallurgy 16 per cent, electricity and electronics 31 per cent and others 21 per cent.

Banking sources said the rise in investment projects coupled with a record harvest of more than nine million tonnes of cereals this year showee there was an economic upturn after a recession.

## Dubai reports surge in trade, port activity

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, (AFP) — Dubai, the barometer of business in the oil-rich Gulf, has reported a sharp growth in trade and operations at its two main ports in the first four months of 1994.

Non-oil trade surged by 12.3 per cent to 22.9 billion dirhams ($6.23 billion) from 20.4 billion dirhams ($5.55 billion) in the same period of 1993, according to the Dubai Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board.

Imports rose by 11.4 per cent. Reexports jumped by 33.4 per cent to $1.05 billion from $780 million.

Officials at the state-run board said the large growth in reexports was due to an increase in exports to neighbouring Iran, which has remained the main market for Dubai's reexports.

Reexports to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan, Hong Kong and Singapore also rose in the first four months.

Dubai, a member of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), is the main Gulf commercial centre, handling more than one fifth of the region's non-oil trade.

A business upswing after the Gulf war boosted the emirate's trade to a record 64 billion dirhams ($17.4 billion) in 1993.

"The level of business in the first months of 1994 indicate Dubai's trade will hit another record," a board official told AFP.

Most of Dubai's trade is handled by its two main ports, Mina Rashid and Jebel Ali, which are rated among the biggest 20 ports in the world.

The report showed a marked increase in operations at the two ports, with cargo rising by eight per cent to 6.3 million tonnes in the first quarter of 1994 from around 5.8 million tonnes in the same period of 1993.

Containers jumped by 21 per cent to around 460,400 from 379,100 while the number of vessels increased by 10 per cent to 2,325.

It gave no figures on investment during the plan.

## Russia plans to step up diamond processing

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian government has given preliminary backing to a plan to refine more of its own diamonds, a move which could give a smaller role to South Africa's De Beers, a top official has said.

The plan to increase the amount of gems polished in Russia would probably mean fewer local gems being sold through De Beers' Central Selling Organisation (CSO), Leonid Gurevich, deputy head of the State Precious Metals Committee, said.

"If we have well-developed facilities for processing diamonds in Russia, then naturally we will be more interested in selling diamonds here," he told Reuters by telephone.

Asked if it would mean fewer gems would be sold through the CSO, he said, "probably. We have never concealed that this is what we are aiming for — working our own diamonds."

"Naturally it is more profitable our own diamonds."

"Naturally it is more profitable to trade the ready made product rather than the raw materials," he added.

Russia has an agreement, due to expire in 1995, to sell 95 per cent of its rough-gem diamond exports through the CSO but the two sides are currently renegotiating the deal. Russian diamonds accounted for 26 per cent of De Beers sales last year.

Mr. Gurevich said the new programme, which he said could win final approval later this year, would not influence the talks on the sales deal between Russia and De Beers.

"You cannot link the existence of the programme with the negotiations with De Beers," Mr. Gurevich said. "First of all the programme defines long-term goals. This is what we are striving for but it does not mean we will have it all tomorrow."

Raymond Clark, general manager of De Beers Moscow office said he was not surprised by Russia's move. But he added:

"Anything that might destabilise an already fragile market is obviously of concern to us."

Many Russian officials object to the deal with the South African giant, which was reached before the collapse of the Soviet Union. They argue they could get better prices for their gems outside the CSO.

Talks have twice been postponed and are scheduled to resume next month.

Mr. Clark said Russia's intention to develop its polishing industry had been clear for some time and there was little De Beers could do other than manager the situation.

Asked about the impact of the programme, he said, "it will obviously depend on the capacity of the manufacturing industry within Russia and how quickly they are able to gear up their productive capacity. "He said it was not always understood how hard it was to add value to diamonds.

Russia has opened a handful of polishing plants with the help of foreign investors. Some officials hope the country could one day compete with established diamond centres.


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# Dutch Olympic champion pulls out of Europeans

HELSINKI (R) — Olympic 800 metres champion Ellen van Langen of the Netherlands was forced to pull out of the European Championships at the last minute on Sunday.

Dutch team officials said van Langen had strained a hamstring muscle in her left leg last Tuesday and decided to pull out of the competition on Saturday night after a late fitness test.

The injury was another major blow to the 28-year-old whose career which has been dogged by injury. After her victory at the Barcelona Olympics, van Langen also missed most of last season because of injuries.

With van Langen out of her heat, Lyubov Gurina, the silver medalist at last year's World Championships, went through easily to the semifinals, as the opening day got under way in overcast but warmish conditions.

Gurina clocked two minutes, 1.87 seconds as a group of athletes passed the line together.

In the men's 400 metres hurdles, Sweden's Sven Nylander and Niklas Wallenlind, silver and bronze medallists respectively at the last championships in 1990, booked their places in the semifinals.

Nylander looked strong dowen the finishing straight as he won his heat in 49.71 seconds while Wallenlind finished second in his heat in 49.45.

Portugal's Pedro .. Rodrigues was the fastest of the qualifiers in 49.05.

Natalya Dukhnova of Belarus, who has looked impressive in the women's 800 metres this season and went into the championships with the second fastest time in Europe and fourth fastest in the world, qualified by winning her heat in 2:04.49.

Carla Sacramento was the fastest of the women's 800 qualifiers in 2:01.86.

Russian sprinter Irina Privalova, who has never won a major individual title outdoors but has an excellent chance to do a sprint double here, cruised through her 100 metres heat.

Privalova relaxed in the second half of the race, looking around in the last 10 metres to win in 11.38 seconds and reach the second round with ease.

Ukraine's Zhanna Tarnopolskaya, who is expected to be Privalova's main challenger, looked sharp in taking her heat in 11.13, the fastest time of the first round. Privalova was fourth fastest.

Britain's Olympic sprint champion Lionford Christie also looked confident in his first race since mid-July following a niggling hamstring injury.

The 34-year-old world and defending European champion seemed relaxed as he won his heat easily in 10.39.

After a good start, Christie switched down a gear after 50 metres and still won by half a stride despite slowing down in the last 10 metres.

Christie had said he was hungry to get back on the track after the frustration of being forced to sit on the sidelines since he pulled up at the end of the 100 metres at the London Grand Prix meeting on July 15.

As he returned to the dressing rooms after the race, the Jamaican-born sprinter put his thumb up to the crowd in a sign of satisfaction that he had come through his first race successfully.

Christie, who has a hot-cold relationship with the media, refused to talk to reporters afterwards.

Geir Moen brought some good news to the Norwegian sprinting camp after Aham Okeke was thrown off the team on the eve of the championships for failing a drugs test when he clocked 10.29, the fastest time of the first round.

The biggest cheer of the morning session went to Portugal's Mandela Machado who won the firs gold medal of the championship in the women's marathon.

Machado, who led for much of the world championship marathon in Stuttgart last year before losing the lead and finishing second, clinched her first major championship title in an unofficial two hours, 29 minutes and 54 seconds.

After breaking away from the rest of the field at halfway, Machado was so far ahead as she entered the stadium that she could afford a few waves to the crowd as he ran around the last lap.

It was a perfect birthday present for the Portugese runner who will be 31 on Tuesday.

Italy's Maria Curatolo was second in 2:30.33 with Romania's Adriana Barbu third in 2:30.55.

Ranger's Craig Moore (6) pats Eric Cantona (right) of Machester United after being sent off during the international tournament at Ibrox. The Glasgow Rangers won 1-0 (AFP photo)

# *Viren's statue adds to romance of Olympic stadium*

HELSINKI (R) — While at first glance it would appear to be wholly inaccurate to say that modern athletics was born in the Olympic stadium in Helsinki, on closer examination, the statement is undeniably true.

Because exactly 11 years ago, the modern professional era of athletics started with the inaugural World Championships in the stadium, a week in which modern-day heroes and heroines such as Carl Lewis, Sergei Bubka and Heike Drechsler all won their first major titles.

More than a decade later, that week in 1983 is still remembered as one of the greatest athletics competitions ever held.

Lewis, then 23, was the star of the show, winning gold medals in the 100 metres, long jump and relay, when he anchored the United States team to a world record of 37.86 seconds.

The following year in Los Angeles he emulated Jesse Owens haul of four Olympic golds in the 100, 200, long jump and relay.

While his 1984 performance recaled Owens's great achievement of the 1936 Olympics, his triple medal haul in Helsinki also evoked memories of an earlier era in the same stadium.

In 1952, Emil Zatopek of Czechoslovakia won three Olympic golds in the 5,000, 10,000 and marathon.

The day Zatopek won his 5,000 title was also the day his wife Dana won the women's javelin title, an event special to Finnish hearts.

Surprisingly, the first-ever javelin world record set in the stadium came 46 years after it was built.

On July 29, 1982, Finland's Tiina Lillak threw 72.40 metres for the world record — and the same woman was to win an everlasting place in Finnish sporting folklore back in the Olympic stadium a yeaar later.

With one throw remaining in the World Championship javelin competition, Britain's Fatima Whitbread was in gold medal position after her first-round throw of 69.14 metres.

Then, with her final throw, Lillak threw 70.82m to send 50,000 home fans wild with delight as they celebrated a Finnish gold medal.

More than 30 years earlier the home crowd also cheered another Finnish legend in the same stadium — the incomparable Paavo Nurmi, who dominated distance running in the 1920s and 1930s.

Nurmi, multi-world record holder and Olympic champion, who had been banned from the 1932 Olympics by the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), for alleged financial irregularities, was 55 by the time the Helsinki Olympics were staged in 1952.

But that did not stop him making one final lap of the track — as the Olympic torch-holder in the opening ceremony.

The identity of the torch-holder had been kept secret unti lthe huge electronic scoreboard flashed out the word "Nurmi," bringing lumps to thousands of throats before the 70,000 fans cheered as the small, balding man carried the Olympic torch around the stadium.

Nurmi's statue has been in the stadium grounds for the last 40 years, and on Saturday was joined by a new statue just a few metres away.

A bronze statue of Lasse Viren, who won the 5,000 and 10,000 titles in both 1972 and 1976, was unveiled by IAAF President Primo Nebiolo, a fitting tribue to, as Nebiolo called him, "one of the greatest runners in the history of the sport."

And while Viren stood smiling as the ceremony unfolded, he might have cast his mind back to the last time the European Championships were staged here 23 years ago.

The stars of those games were Finland's Juha Vaatainen, who won the 5,000 and 10,000, Valeri Borzov, Karel Lismont, Janis Lusis and Renate Stecher.

Among the also-rans that week in 1971 was Viren, who finished seventh in the 5,000. and 17th in the 10,000.

Just over a year later Viren returned to run a world record 5,000 in 13:16.4, the last individual men's track record set in the stadium.

The venue has undergone a facelift for these championships and is one of the best stadiums in Europe.

It is also unique in that it is the only one with a 72-metre high tower built into it.

Legend has it that the height of the tower corresponds to the distance of Finn Matti Jarvinen's winning javelin throw at the 1932 Olympic Games.

It's a story that may or may not be true, but adds to the romance surrounding a real venue of legends.

# Cheers for German, jeers for Frenchman

LONDON (AP) — The German was nobbed by excited fans as he left the field. The Frenchman walked off alone, disgraced by yet another red card.

Juergen Klinsmann made his first appearance for Tottenham Saturday in a pre-season exhibition game at division one Watford and was an instant hit with the Spurs followers.

The German, scorer of five goals in the World Cup, didn't find the target this time in a 1-1 tie but did enough to make him a favourite among the 8,000 Tottenham fans crammed into Watford's modest 15,000 capacity stadium.

Eric Cantona, sent off twice towards the end of last season, saw red again Saturday. Only 90 seconds after he was shown the yellow card for dissent playing for Manchester United in a 1-0 exhibition loss at Glasgow Rangers, he was shown the red one for a two-footed lunge at the home team's Steven Pressley.

While Tottenham almost certainly have Klinsmann on its lineup for the opening game of the Premier League season at Sheffield Wednesday Aug. 20, United is bracing itself for losing Cantona for the first three.

"Eric thought there was an injustice against him. He admits he can't control his temper," United Manager Alex Ferguson said.

"We expect him to miss two or three matches through suspension and be out for the start of the season. But we will just have to live with his faults as well as the good points of his game."

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**British sprinter tests positive for ephedrine**

HELSINKI (R) — British sprinter Solomon Wariso has tested positive for ephedrine, but could still compete in the European Athletic Championships, a British team spokesman said on Sunday. Traces of ephedrine were found in the sample taken from Wariso at a meeting in Gateshead, England, on July 1. But British Athletic Federation spokesman Tony Ward said that Wariso could still compete in the championships because the results of the "B" sample will not be known until later this month, after the end of the championships. "We are supporting Solomon because as far as we are concerned he has tested for an "inadvertent positive" meaning he took the ephedrine by mistake in a herbal remedy he bought in the United States. "Technically he is not yet been proved quilty of the offence or suspended, so could still run here."

**Simpson attorneys may use ice cream in defence**

NEW YORK (AP) — A cup of partially frozen ic cream was found near the bloodied bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, raising new questions about when the victims were killed, Newsweek reported. The defence may use the ice cream to argue that the victims were alive later than prosecutors have contended, making it impossible for former NFL star and actor O.J. Simpson to have killed his ex-wife and her friend, the magazine said in its Aug. 15 issue. Ms. Simpson, 35, and Goldman, 25, were found stabbed and slashed to death outside Ms. Simpson's Brentwood condominium on June 13. Simpson has pleaded innocent to murder charges. Prosecutors have said Ms. Simpson and Goldman died between 10:15 p.m. and 11 p.m. on June 12. But police found the cup, with much of the ice cream still frozen, near the bodies sometime after 12:10 a.m. on July 13, unidentified defense sources told the magazine. The timing of the discovery would suggest that Ms. Simpson and Goldman were alive after 11 p.m. because otherwise the ice cream would have melted in the 60-degree heat, Newsweek said. By 11 p.m., Mr. Simpson was en route to Los Angeles international airport for a trip to Chicago, Simpson's limousine driver has said. Messages left at the offices of Simpson lawyers Robert Shapiro and Johnnie Cochran Jr. were not returned Saturday. Los Angeles Police Department spokesman Don Cox said the department would not comment.

**Belarus grandmaster qualifies for semifinals**

HYDERABAD, India (AP) — Grandmaster Boris Gelfand of Belarus defeated Russia's Vladimir Kramnik in their eight game Saturday, qualifying for the $500,000 world chess championship semifinals. Gelfand's victory came on the 63rd move. Gelfand secured a total of 4.5 points against Kramnik's 3.5. In other developments Saturday, organisers announced that U.S. Grandmaster Gata Kamasky and his Indian counterpart Vishwanathan Anand will play a tie-breaker to decide who will qualify for the semifinals. After their scheduled eight game series, both were tied with four points each. A total of six grandmasters were taking part in the quarterfinals, sponsored by the World Chess Federation, known by its acronym FIDE. Three will qualify to the next stage. In the other game, Russian Grandmaster Valery Salov surged forward with a one point lead over Jan Timman of the Netherlands after an outright victory in the seventh game.

**Romario punched, jeered in exhibition game**

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — Romario may wish he had gone back to Barcelona. The most valuable player in the World Cup was punched in the face and jeered during an exhibition game Thursday night, the O Globo newspaper reported Saturday. Romario is on vacation in Brazil, defying orders from his Barcelona club to report to training camp. The incidents occurred during a game between a team of "friends of Romario" and a veterans' team from Espirito Santo State in Vitoria, 521 kilometres northeast of Rio. Mauro, a fullback from the veterans' team, tried to greet Romario before the game, claiming the two knew each other from Rio. According to O Globo, Romario ordered him expelled from the locker room, and Mauro reached over and punched him in the face. Romario, who received $50,000 to play, held up the start of the game and left before it was over. The crowd of just 824 whistled. But he left his mark with a penalty kick for his team's only score in a 1-1 tie. Earlier this week, Romario said he expected to stay at least 15 more days in Brazil, adding that he would willingly pay a fine for disobeying team rules.

Vasilli Karassev of Russia (left) looks to pass the ball by Cory Hallas of Canada during their World Basketball Championship opening round game. This is the eleventh meeting between these teams in international play. Russia won 73-66 (AFP photo)

# 'St. Petersburg bid unlikely to succeed'

ST. PETRESBURG (R) — As a stunnig backdrop for the internationally televised Goodwill Games, St. Petersburg has been unsurpassed.

As a candidate for the 2004 Olympics, it will have serious problems persuading the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that it can successfully stage the world's biggest sporting festival.

Goodwill Games' President Jack Kelly has been a master of diplomacy throughout the 16-day multi-sports Goodwill Games which ended on Sunday, making light of the usual endless succession of problems.

But even he finally lost his temper when Russian officials promised, but did not deliver, a proper ice skating rink in time for the start of either the short speed skating or the figure skating.

"I told the mayor (Anatoly Sobchak) that in Russia you create a problem, then solve the problem and think you've achieved something," Kelly said. "We think you've finished even."

Russia poured the full resources of the Communist state in to the 1980 Moscow Olympics now private enterprise must fill the gap in a country where Kelly among others has discovered rhetoric often substitutes for reality.

Not surprisingly Kelly, an experienced and skilful administrator, doubts whether St. Petersburg will have either the facilities or the expertise to hold an Olympics.

"I think 2004 will be too soon in terms of the extensive preparations that will really be necessary to host 26 sports in different venues," Kelly said.

"Here we have some venues for three or four sports. The Olympics would require more facilities and really more infrastructure than exists today."

Certainly in terms of architecture, culture and history St. Petersburg rivals Barcelona, which staged a spectacular and successful Olympics two years ago.

Founded in 1703 as a "window on the West" by Peter the Great, St. Petersburg was the capital of the czars for 200 years, a city heady with power, excess and brutality.

It was the cradle for the Russian revolution which overthrew the czars and brought the Bolsheviks to power and then, renamed Leningrad, withstood 900 days of Nazi siege in the World War II.

Now St. Perersburg again after the collapse of the Soviet Union three years, the city embodies the contradictions and challenges of the new Russia.

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7. Salon size: 14mX6.40m.
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9. Kitchen size: 8mX5m.
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# Becker, Woodforde reach Los Angeles final

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Unseeded Australian Mark Woodforde survived Richard Krajicek's 192-kmh serves and a three-set battle in blistering heat Saturday, advancing to the Los Angeles Open final with a 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 victory.

Woodforde reached his first final of the year and will play No. 2 Boris Becker in Sunday's championship on the University of California courts. Becker defeated No. 6 Jason Stoltenberg of Australia 6-4, 6-4 in the other semifinal.

"Reaching a final is fantastic," said Woodforde, ranked 53rd in the world in singles, but known primarily for his doubles success. "It's a geat feeling."

Woodforde's first victory over Krajicek in five career meetings was a replay of the 1992 L.A. Open final, which Krajicek won in three sets. Krajicek, the fifth seed from the Netherlands, also won here in 1993.

This time, Woodforde's serve-and-volley game withstood Krajicek's booming serve, which produced 13 aces to Woodforde's 10.

"He has a good serve and a good volley and those are his biggest strengths," Krajicek said.

Woodforde led 40-love in the sixth game of the first set before Krajicek saved one break point, then double faulted to lose the game. Krajicek had two break points in the final game, but failed to capitalise and lost the first set.

"Mark played pretty well," Krajicek said. "It was very hot. I was struggling more today than yesterday. I should have done more serve-and-volley and pressured the guy."

Krajicek, ranked 25th in the world, quickly recovered in the second set, taking a 4-2 lead before serving it out to tie the match.

In the third, Woodforde had three break points when Krajicek fired two aces to reach deuce. Another big serve and a backhand drop volley allowed Krajicek to tie it up, 2-2.

"I did get a bit discouraged when I got those three break points," Woodforde said. "Before I used to show my frustration. But today I just wanted to concentrate. I could not have played two better points, but then he made a fantastic backhand."

Woodforde committed three double faults in the seventh game, but nailed a crosscourt backhand volley winner to go up 4-3.

Woodforde is also in Sunday's doubles final with partner John Fitzgerald.

Becker needed 76 minutes to dispatch Stoltenberg in a night match.

The German had three set points in the ninth game, but Stoltenberg held serve to climb to 5-4. Then Becker closed out the first set, losing just seven points on his serve.

Stoltenberg, who upset No. 3 Andre Agassi in the quarterfinals, led 4-3 in the second. Becker held serve to tie the set, broke Stoltenberg in the next game with a backhand down the line and won the final three games of the match. Becker had 34 winners to Stoltenberg's 13.

"He served well," Stoltenberg said. "I really couldn't do anything. I felt powerless."

## TENNIS ROUNDUP

**Santoro stuns Muster**

KITZBUEHEL, Austria (AP) — Fabrice Santoro of France stunned Austrian favourite Thomas Muster on Saturday for the right to face No. 2-ranked Goran Ivanisevic in the final of the $410,000 EA Generali Tennis Tournament.

Santoro drew applause even from the partisan Austrian crowd as he held off an aggressive-playing Muster with repeated strong rallies to win 2-6, 7-6 (8-6), 7-6 (7-4).

Muster, the tournament's No. 2 seed and defending champion, looked frustrated as he left the clay court after the three-hour marathon.

"He played perfect serve-volley tennis," Muster said of his unseeded, 21-year-old Tahitian-born opponent.

Muster, 12th in the World ATP Tour Rankings, had a chance to win the match in the second set, but failed to capitalise on a match point.

The contest then became a seesaw endurance test in temperatures that soared to the mid 40s celsius on court. No relief is expected before Sunday's final.

Top-seeded Ivanisevic had an easier time of it against Tomas Carbonell of Spain, winning 7-6 (7-4), 6-0, in 74 minutes. But he appeared unsettled in the first set.

Relying on a finesse game, Carbonell managed to break Ivanisevic's blistering serve twice to force the set to a tiebreak.

Stung by having his serve broken for the first time in the tournament, the Croat at times looked like the temperamental Ivanissevic of old — swatting his racket about and muttering to himself over unforced errors.

His serves lost none of their characteristic heat, however, and he buried Carbonell in the second set.

"I wasn't there mentally today, and I was very nervous," Ivanisevic said afterward.

**Bruguera, Medvedev advance to final**

PRAGUE, Czech Republic (AP) — Spain's Sergi Bruguera and Andrei Medvedev of the Ukraine enjoyed easy matches Saturday, advancing to the final of the $365,000 Skoda Czech Open men's tennis tournament at the Stvanice clay-court Stadium.

Bruguera breezed by sixth-seeded fellow Spaniard Alberto Costa 6-1, 6-3.

The top seed and defending champion came on with his usual athletic play, peppered with dropshots and net approaches, taking a commanding lead early in the first set and winning 6-1 in just 25 minutes.

The 19-year-old Costa, a former junior world champion, built a 3-1 lead in the second set, but squandered two breakpoints and finally lost the set and match after netting an easy overhead smash.

"I was playing very comfortably and he was maybe trying too hard," Bruguera said after the match.

Second-seeded Medvedev disposed of local hero and third-seeded Slava Dosedel of the Czech Republic with equal ease.

The visibly nervous Dosedel lost the first set with a double fault and never turned on the kind of game that brought him to the semifinal.

Medvedev needed just 64 minutes to subdue his opponent with patient baseline play.

**Graf, Sanchez Vicario advance to final**

CARLSBAD, California (R) — World number one Steffi Graf and second-ranked Arantxa Sanchez Vicario will meet in a rematch of last year's final after posting semifinal victories at the $400,000 Toshiba Tennis Classic on Saturday.

Graf, the top seed and defending champion seeking her fourth title here, scored a 6-3, 6-4 win over unseeded American Tami Whitlinger-Jones, who advanced when fourth seed Lindsay Davenport defaulted with an injury.

French Open champion Sanchez had a surprisingly easy time in ending the 20-match winning streak of third-seeded Wimbledon winner Conchita Martinez, 6-4, 6-1.

Graf, who needed three sets in each of her two previous matches, was in better form on Saturday but still had trouble closing out sets after taking leads of 5-1 in the first and 5-2 in the second.

"It's difficult to say if I was 100 per cent happy today but I felt much better," said the German star, who has been in a slump since her stunning first-round loss at Wimbledon.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

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THE LITTLEST CHANCE

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A K 3
♡ A 6 5 4
♢ A K 8
♣ 7 6 4

WEST
♠ 10 9 8 7
♡ J 9 8
♢ 6 5 4
♣ Q 8 2

EAST
♠ 6 5 4
♡ Q 10 7
♢ 10 9 3
♣ 10 9 5 3

SOUTH
♠ Q J 2
♡ K 3 2
♢ Q J 7 2
♣ A K J

The bidding:

| South | West | North | East |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 NT | Pass | 6 NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

High cards are only one way to capture tricks. If you can exhaust your opponents' holding in a suit, even relatively low cards will become winners. On some hands you might be able to test more than one possibility in the search for an extra trick, as long as you go about your business and play your cards in the right order.

North simply added 18 points to partner's announced 16-18 to determine there were enough points present for a small slam, but not enough for a grand. Note that North did not employ the Stayman Convention to check for a 4-4 major-suit fit; most players ignore Stayman when they have a 4-3-3-3 hand pattern.

West led the ten of spades and declarer could count 11 gold-plated winners. At first glance it might seem South will need a successful club finesse to land the slam, but there is another chance. If hearts divide 3-3, a long heart can be established.

Does it matter which possibility declarer goes after first? And how! If declarer takes the club finesse and it loses, declarer won't be able to surrender a heart in an attempt to set up a long card—that will be the setting trick.

Should declarer go after hearts by cashing the ace-king and conceding a heart? In the immortal words of Eliza Doolittle: "Not bloody likely!". If the hearts divide 4-2, declarer would lose two heart tricks and the club finesse won't matter.

Correct is to duck a heart at trick two. Declarer can then win any return and cash the ace-king of hearts. If the suit breaks, 12 tricks can be claimed. If not, declarer still has the club finesse in reserve.

American Tim Grubb and his horse Elan Denizen fall during the individual competition at the World Equestrian Games (AFP photo)

# German wins gold at World Equestrian Games

THE HAGUE (R) — Germany's Michael Freund won the individual gold in the four-in-hand driving championships at the World Equestrian Games on Sunday.

George Bowman of Britain took the silver and defending champion, Dutchman Ijsbrand Chardon, the bronze.

Freund, who had to put a last-minute substitute into his team when one of his horses was found lame, was clear through all 20 of the obstacles of the final condriving phase, which calls for great accuracy.

Although he collected half a penalty for exceeding the time allowed, his three-day score, after the dressage, marathon and cones, of 122.50 points, was sufficient to give him victory over Bowman by 3.55 penalties.

Bowman, a 59-year-old carpet wholesaler for Cumbria, England, and 16 times British national champion, held his silver medal position with another masterly clear round, leaving Freund with no margin of error. Less fluent at one or two of the cones than Bowman, he nevertheless left the cones standing.

For Freund, 39, who runs a horse feed business and small garden centre at New-Isenburg, this was a first world championship title.

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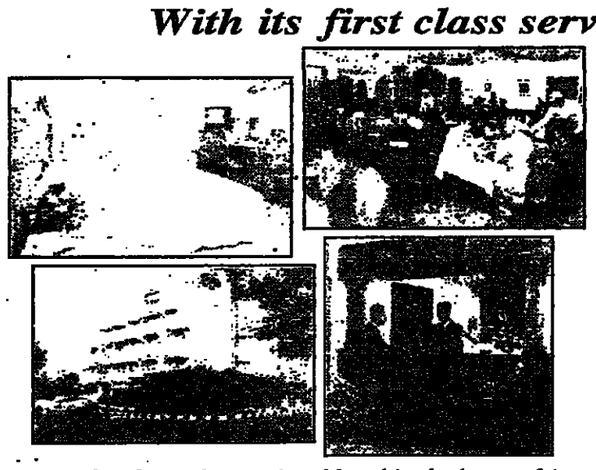

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# NEWS IN BRIEF

## S. Arabia denies it hired MiGs to fight in Yemen

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia Sunday denied a British newspaper report that it had hired up to 12 MiG-29 warplanes flown by Russian pilots to fight in the Yemeni civil war. An official spokesman quoted by the Saudi News Agency SPA said: "The Sunday Times should not have published such a report which is utterly groundless." The Sunday Times, quoting the U.S. intelligence service, said the Saudis paid "millions of dollars" to the Russian pilots, who bombed the northern Yemeni forces. The jets were based at Al Rayyan airbase near Mukalla, south Yemen's second largest city, and returned to Russia when the civil war ended in July, the paper quoted the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as saying. The Sunday Times said "the presence of Russian armed forces acting as hired guns in a foreign war is causing concern in Washington. When the Russians were first confronted with the American intelligence they denied all knowledge of the operation," the paper said, but "now they claim that if such an operation did take place it was without official sanctions." An unnamed U.S. intelligence source told the paper: "In many ways that is even worse, as it raises questions about (Russian President) Boris Yeltsin's ability to control his own military. "If there is a group of fighter pilots for hire we want to know," the Sunday Times quoted the source as saying. "Equally, if this goes higher into the military command structure, we want to know that too."

## 24 killed in Turkish violence

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish security forces have killed 20 Kurdish rebels in the last two days in the east and southeast of the country, an official statement said on Sunday. The statement from the emergency rule governor's office said four soldiers lost their lives in clashes in southeastern Mus and Hakkari provinces. It said 14 other rebels were detained in operations in five southern and southeastern provinces. At least 12,400 people have been killed, some 2,600 this year, in fighting between government troops and the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) struggling for an independent homeland in southeast Turkey since 1984.

## Syrian claims he wants asylum in Israel

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Israeli-backed militiamen arrested a Syrian labourer after he infiltrated into their enclave Sunday, claiming he wanted asylum in Israel, security sources said. Speaking on condition of anonymity, the sources identified the man as Abdul Qader Darwish, 27. He was arrested by militiamen of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) on the edge of the central sector of Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon. The sources said Darwish told his interrogators that as a fighter with Syria's Arab Baath Socialist Party, he had been involved in guerrilla attacks against the Israelis and their allies in South Lebanon and was wounded several times. He said he decided to seek asylum in Israel because the Syrian government never paid him any compensation or refunded his medical bills, forcing him to work in Lebanon as a construction labourer. The authenticity of his claims could not be verified and the sources gave no details of the attacks he allegedly was involved in.

## Germany opens office in Jericho

BONN (AP) — Germany on Monday was to open the first diplomatic representation in the autonomous Palestinian area, a Jericho office that will focus on coordinating a $170 million German aid programme. Germany will help build a Palestinian police force, train administrators and journalists and help sewage, hospitals, and water in the autonomous region, a statement from the foreign ministry said. "Lasting peace and stability can only come to the war-battered Middle East when the economic and social conditions of its peoples have improved considerably," Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel said. Israel approved of diplomatic representations in the autonomous areas under its peace agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). The 12-nation European Union pledged 500 million ECUs ($600 million) in aid to the autonomous areas through 1998. Germany's share is about $170 million.

## UNOSOM condemns killing of Zimbabwean

NAIROBI (AFP) — The U.N. Operation in Somalia on Sunday condemned recent attacks on U.N. peacekeepers by Somali clan militia during which a Zimbabwean peacekeeper was killed at Belet Huen, north of Mogadishu, on July 30. In a statement faxed to AFP here from Mogadishu, the U.N. special envoy to Somalia, Victor Gbeho, said UNOSOM "strongly condemned the senseless killing of the Zimbabwean soldier, Private Moyo, and held those responsible fully accountable." Moyo was shot dead by Somali militia at a water point when he refused to hand over his weapon. Mr. Gbeho also condemned a recent forcible entry and looting of equiment and vehicles, as well as personal belongings, from the UNOSOM civilian compound and the Zimbabwe camp in Belet Huen. "Such actions do not favour the interests of Somalia, particularly at a time when the U.N. Security Council is reviewing the role of the U.N. in the country," Mr. Gbeho warned, adding that it was imperative that all Somali leaders cooperate with UNOSOM to ensure the success of its mandate.

## 6,900 to stand in Syrian elections

DAMASCUS (AFP) — More than 6,900 candidates will stand in forthcoming legislative elections here chasing just 250 seats in the parliamentary People's Assembly, the media said Sunday. According to figures provided by the Interior Ministry, the electoral commission rejected 463 people who presented themselves as potential candidates. Now 6,971 will stand in the elections due to be held on Aug. 24 and 25 when more than seven million Syrians are registered to vote out of the 15 million population. The last elections held in May 1990 were won by 166 candidates from the ruling coalition the National Progressive Front headed by President Hafez Al Assad and grouping seven parties including the main Baath party. The other 84 seats went to independent candidates.

## Kuwaiti executed for raping girl

KUWAIT (AP) — A Kuwaiti man was hanged Sunday for involvement in the abduction and rape of a 10-year-old Egyptian girl last year, an Interior Ministry official said. Speaking in exchange for anonymity, he said Mohammad Kulaib Al Rashidi, 29, was executed at the central prison. The girl, whose name was not disclosed, was kidnapped and abused for two days before security forces uncovered her abductors' hideout and arrested them. As juveniles, Rashidi's three accomplices got lighter sentences of 10 years in jail each.

## Egypt denies Alfi cousin imprisoned in Sudan

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt on Saturday denied a report that a cousin of Interior Minister Hassan Al Alfi had been sentenced to prison in Sudan for adultery and attempted bribery, dismissing the story as part of an anti-Egyptian campaign by the Sudanese government. The Middle East News Agency, quoting an official source at the ministry, said the minister did not have a cousin named Farouq Hassan Al Alfi, identified in a report by the official Sudan News Agency as the relative in question. The Sudanese agency reported earlier Saturday that Mr. Alfi, personnel director of the Egyptian irrigation office in Sudan, had also been ordered by a criminal court in Khartoum to pay a fine of 50,000 Sudanese pounds ($170). In Cairo the interior ministry official denounced the report as "false news that is part of a media campaign launched by the Sudanese regime against Egypt."

# Socialist International backs Jordan's moves

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday received the chairman of the Middle East Committee at Socialist International, Hanz Yorgen, who arrived here as part of a tour in the region, which has taken him to Syria and the Gaza Strip in the Palestinian self-rule area.

Dr. Majali listened to a briefing by Mr. Yorgen on the outcome of his tour of the region and the role of Socialist International in enhancing the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Yorgen welcomed the Washington Declaration, saying that it "gives momentum to peace talks on other tracks and enhances stability, and security, and accelerates the steps towards a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region."

Dr. Majali praised Socialist International's endeavours to ensure broader understanding among the countries of the region and the European Union. Dr. Majali welcomed a meeting of the organisation, which will be held in Brussels before the end of the year, with representatives of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Egypt, Israel and Turkey attending.

Dr. Majali said Jordan respects all political schools and trends, particularly those aimed at easing human suffering.

The meeting was attended by Minister of State Abdullah Al Jazi.

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday holds talks with Hanz Yorgen (centre), a senior Socialist International leader, in a meeting attended by Minister of State Abdullah Jazi (Petra photo)

# Opposition presses its push against peace talks in letter to prime minister

By Ayman Al Safadi
*Jordan Times Staff reporter*

AMMAN — Opposition parties on Sunday reiterated their claim that the majority of the Jordanian people are against the Jordanian-Israeli peace talks and urged the government to "return to the people" to find out where they stand on what they called an issue of crucial implications to the nation and its future.

"The current talks will transfer Jordan from a party to a large conflict with the Zionist enemy to a country at peace with it. This is a crucial issue which requires deep study and the engagement of the people in a thorough dialogue," eight political parties said in a letter to Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali.

His Majesty King Hussein said last week he was considering conducting a plebiscite on the peace talks but many lawmakers said such a step was not needed in light of support of the majority of deputies to the peace talks.

Accusing the government of ignoring the will of the people and their political parties and institutions, which "reflect the public opinion" in the Kingdom, the opposition parties also demanded that the government refer its recent moves in the peace talks to Parliament.

In the letter, which was sent one day before Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was making his first public visit to the Kingdom, the opposition parties criticised the government for conducting the talks without the approval of Parliament. The parties made this criticism even though the Constitution grants the executive branch the right to negotiate treaties without seeking the approval of the legislature.

The parties belittled the significance of the expression of support to the talks by the majority of members of the Lower House, saying the "approval of some deputies" was expressed outside "the parliamentary framework."

Fifty-one out of the 80 members of the House said in letters to King Hussein last week that they supported his policies on the peace talks in what was seen as a clear and strong parliamentary mandate to the government to proceed with its policies on the peace talks.

Observers also said the letters discredit the opposition's claims that they represent the majority of Jordanians when they reject the new developments in the peace process.

The opposition eight also questioned the government's commitment to the democratic process and accused it of manipulating the official media to show that the majority of Jordanians are supportive of the peace talks.

Accusing the government of "conceding all of Palestine to the enemy and dropping Jerusalem as a political issue," among other "concessions" to Israel, the eight political parties, which have taken the lead in opposing the talks, claimed that the Jordanian people will reject any agreements the talks would lead to.

The parties, which included Islamists, leftists and pan-Arabist parties, demanded that the government withdraw from the talks and reverse all the steps it has taken towards the normalisation of relations with Israel because they "violate Jordanian laws."

Despite their claim to have the support of the majority of the people in their stand, the opposition parties have thus far failed to demonstrate any proof to their claim.

Since the breakthrough in the Jordanian-Israeli talks was made July 18 when the two countries held their first public meeting in the area, the opposition has been confined to the issuance of statements that claim most of Jordanians are opposed to the talks.

The opposition eight have declared a day of national mourning July 25 when King Hussein signed the Washington Declaration with Mr. Rabin, but few people seemed to have taken up the call and life went as normal in the Kingdom.

Supporters of the peace process cited normalcy of life in the Kingdom as a proof that the majority of Jordanians are behind the peace talks.

# Journalists step up pressure on Arafat

By Mariam M. Shahin
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Palestinian journalists stepped up pressure on Palestinian National Authority (PNA) President Yasser Arafat to reverse a ban on the distribution of the Arabic language daily Al Nahar Sunday with a petition seeking a meeting with them in person to discuss the measures his government was taking against freedom of the press.

"We have petitioned the PNA president to meet an Al Nahar delegation in Gaza and discuss the ban on the Al Nahar and freedom of the press," an Al Nahar staff member told the Jordan Times Sunday in the first telephone interview conducted by the paper after direct telephone services between Jordan, Israel and the occupied territories was introduced Sunday.

"We began this petition several days ago and so far we have not gotten an answer and it does not look like Arafat wants to talk to us," said the Al Nahar staff member on condition of anonymity.

The July 29 decision to ban the distribution of Al Nahar, which is considered pro-Jordanian, was made by Mr. Arafat and came after His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to end 46 years of hostilities between Jordan and Israel, and Israel acknowledged Jordan's historic role in Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

The reference to Jerusalem, which Palestinians consider the capital of their future state, reportedly infuriated the PNA president and led to a backlash against the pro-Amman paper.

At the time of the ban, PNA authorities said that the paper did not have a licence to operate. But most Palestinian journalists and politicians say that the licensing issue was used as a pretext to stop the papers' distribution.

Al Nahar staff members say that most PNA ministers including Minister of Information Yasser Abed Rabbo, as well as Faisal Husseini, Samir Ghosheh and Palestinian human rights activist and former spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi are all supportive of Al Nahar's right to continue publishing and distributing.

"The whole government is behind us. They were not consulted," said the Al Nahar staff member. "The decision to ban distribution was taken by one person and now we are trying to see that person," he said.

The only other operational Arabic daily newspaper, the Al Quds, Saturday sacked one of its prominent writers, Daoud Kuttab, after he signed a petition against the closure of Al Nahar.

Palestinian journalists say that they fear that Mr. Arafat plans to ban any voice of dissent in the Palestinian press. A mouthpiece of the PNA president, called the Al Aqsa newspaper, is being prepared for distribution in the occupied territories and the self-rule areas.

Palestinian journalists, intellectuals, human rights activists and politicians are creating lobbying groups in the occupied territories to pressure the PNA to apply democratic methods and allow for full freedom of speech under Palestinian rule, activists said.

# Sifi pledges democracy

ALGIERS (AFP) — Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi called Sunday on leaders of legal opposition parties to help him prepare for fresh elections, pledging to ensure a swift return to democracy.

Presenting his government's administrative programme to the country's transitional legislature, Mr. Sifi called on unnamed "party leaders and their activists" to contribute to organising new polls on an unspecified date.

"You call for dialogue: Come and talk," he told them. "You call for elections: Help us to organise them. You want power: Seek it from the people in a democratic manner through the ballot box."

Laying out the major strategic aims of the programme to the national transitional council (CNT), Mr. Sifi called on the opposition to put "the interests of the country and the people before party politics."

The CNT comprises 178 members representing some 30 parties, unions and employer organisations.

But the parties which won the greatest number of votes in Algeria's last general election in December 1991 are not represented in the interim legislature.

Heading them is the since-outlawed fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

# Paris springs security net

PARIS (Agencies) — Hundreds of French police set up road checks in the capital, authorities said Sunday, sending a message to Algerian militants threatening the French government.

The 500-strong police operation Saturday night stopped cars at three sites in eastern Paris, home to a large immigrant population, and at the Arch of Triumph in western Paris, officials said.

But the operation's effect appeared largely symbolic. Among some 3,000 people questioned, only about 50 people were detained for lacking valid immigration papers, carrying knives or drunkenness, officials said.

While the searach had been planned since last week, "the threat by the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) gave the operation more importance," said an interior ministry spokesman on customary anonymity.

On Saturday a communique by the Algerian group threatened unspecified reprisals against the French government unless fundementalist supporters jailed in France were released immediately. Seventeen were rounded up in recent days.

The police operation sent a message to militants that "all measures were taken to face their threat," the spokesman said in a telephone interview. "It also shows the French population that the interior ministry takes the threat seriously."

France on Saturday dismissed a demand by AIG the military wing of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), to free the 17 people seized by authorities following Wednesday's guerrilla attack on a French embassy housing compound in Algiers in which seven French officials were killed.

The militant Algerian Armed Islamic Group (AIG) has claimed responsibility for the attack. On Saturday the AIG warned Algerian students and teachers to stay away from schools and universities and said any which stayed open would be blown up or burnt down.

The 17 detainees, accused by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua of "support for terrorism" while on French soil, were being held in an army camp in the village of Folembray, northeast of Paris.

Paris has strongly supported Algeria's army-backed authorities since they cancelled a general election in Janaury 1992 which the FIS was poised to win. At least 4,000 Algerians and 56 foreigners have been killed in subsequent violence.

The FIS has been banned in Algeria and is a prime target of a French crackdown on suspected fundamentalists.

"The arrest and detention of these brothers, most of them members of the FIS or sympathisers in the cause for which they are fighting, means that France has declared war on the FIS and on Algerian Muslims," the AIS — said in a statement circulated in Algiers and obtained in Paris.

"France should renounce this policy of belligerence and free our brothers or it will assume responsibility for what will happen at the hands of the mujahideen affiliated with the AIS," said the statement.

Interior ministry officials said it ordered a tightening of security across France in anticipation of such threats when the decision was made to round up suspected activists.

In addition to the streets of Paris, police surveillance was also being increased at embassies, railway stations and airports, the officials said.

Mr. Pasqua told French television all of those detained were served with expulsion orders, but he added France will not expel them at this time because their lives would be in danger if they were forced to return to Algeria.

If they could find a country willing to take them, they could leave immediately. Otherwise, he planned to detain them for "the time required," Mr. Pasqua said.

# Saudis sought nuclear arms capability — defector

NEW YORK (R) — A former Saudi diplomat seeking political asylum in the United States says Saudi Arabia made secret efforts in the United States and China to acquire nuclear arms, the New York Times reported in Sunday editions.

During an interview Friday, former diplomat Mohammad Al Khilewi produced letters to support his allegations, the paper said.

Mr. Khilewi, formerly the second-ranking official at Saudi Arabia's U.N. mission, said that in 1989 efforts were made to buy nuclear research reactors from China and from Marine Services Limited in Alexandria, Virginia.

Both efforts involved reactors known as miniature neutron source reactors, the New York Times said. Experts describe such reactors as small models suitable for research with relatively simple applications.

The newspaper said a Saudi embassy official in Washingon Adel Al Jubir, responding Saturday to a request for comment on Mr. Khilewi's allegations, had challenged the authenticity of the former diplomat's documents but did not comment on what they contained.

Mr. Khilewi says he has 14,000 documents proving human rights abuses, terrorism and corruption by the Saudi government.

He also said he could confirm media reports that the Saudis had contributed about $5 billion to a covert Iraq nuclear programme prior to that country's invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

Mr. Jubir of the Saudi embassy pointed out that Saudi Arabia had openly offered to pay to rebuild Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor after it was destroyed by Israeli warplanes in 1981. He seemed to be implying that any payments to Iraq might be connected to that offer, the New York Times said.

Saudi Arabia signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1988, pledging not to acquire nuclear weapons. Despite U.S. pressure, it has refused since then to sign a comprehensive safeguards agreement with the international Atomic Energy Agency as required by the treaty. Such an agreement would require the Saudis to declare any installations they possess and open them to international inspection.

# COLUMN

## Diana arrives on Martha's Vineyard

VINEYARD HAVEN, Massachusetts (AP) — President Bill Clinton will have to wait. For now, Princess Di is the reigning celebrity on the island. Police for the township of Tisbury confirmed Saturday that Diana, Princess of Wales, is staying on Martha's Vineyard, the island that is expected to host Mr. Clinton and his family later this week. "I understand she is on-island, but there's no further information," said a Tisbury police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity. Exactly where on the island she is staying is another question. And there are as many answers as there are sources. An island town official who asked not to be named told the Cape Cod Times that the princess had arrived with at least two children and another adult. Another police source who did not want to be identified said the princess was staying in Tisbury or West Tisbury, townships on the northern part of the Vineyard. That source said the princess flew to the island Thursday afternoon and planned to stay for 10 days. He said he saw the princess in the area, riding in a white limousine. Reporters at the Vineyard Gazette also said they had heard the princess was in West Tisbury. Rumours flew that she was staying with the Brazilian ambassador to the United States, Paulo Tarso Flecha De Lima, at his house in Lambert's Cove on the Tisbury-West Tisbury border. The U.S. State Department would not confirm whether Princess Diana was vacationing on the island. "Princess Di is on a personal and private trip and it is inappropriate for us to make any comment on the matter," said press officer Julie Reside. Buckingham Palace would not comment. Neither would the press office of the British embassy in Boston.

## U.K. MP suggests building new royal palace

LONDON (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth should move out of Buckingham Palace and into a new modern residence built by the country's top architects, an opposition Labour politician said Sunday. Member of Parliament Marjorie Mowlan, in an article in the Mail On Sunday newspaper, said Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, west of the capital, were too old-fashioned and should be sold. "As Britain approaches the end of the 20th century both the nation, and our most powerful symbol of nationhood, the monarchy, could do with... a gesture of self-confidence." "A new royal residence should be built to demonstrate this," Ms. Mowlan said the new "people's palace" should be thoroughly modern and not a pastiche of the past. She also suggested that other members of the royal family should pay for the palaces they live in. Ms. Mowlan said her plan offered potential savings from the £26.4 million ($40.6 million) currently spent by the government on the royal palaces.

## British princes set to inherit millions

LONDON (R) — Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has set up a trust fund estimated at up to £19 million ($29.2 million) for her great grandchildren, British newspaper said Sunday. The Observer, quoting sources close to Buckingham Palace, said the sons of Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana will share £4.9 million ($7.5 million) on their 21st birthdays. "More than half — £2.9 million ($4.5 million) — will go to Prince Harry, because the Queen Mother fears his chances of securing personal wealth maybe limited," the newspaper said. Prince Harry, 9, is the younger of the couple's two sons. His older brother, Prince William, will inherit the throne from his father. The princes will also share £8 million ($12.3 million) on their 40th birthdays and the remaining £6.1 million is in trust for the Queen Mother's other four great-grandchildren.